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FUNTopics

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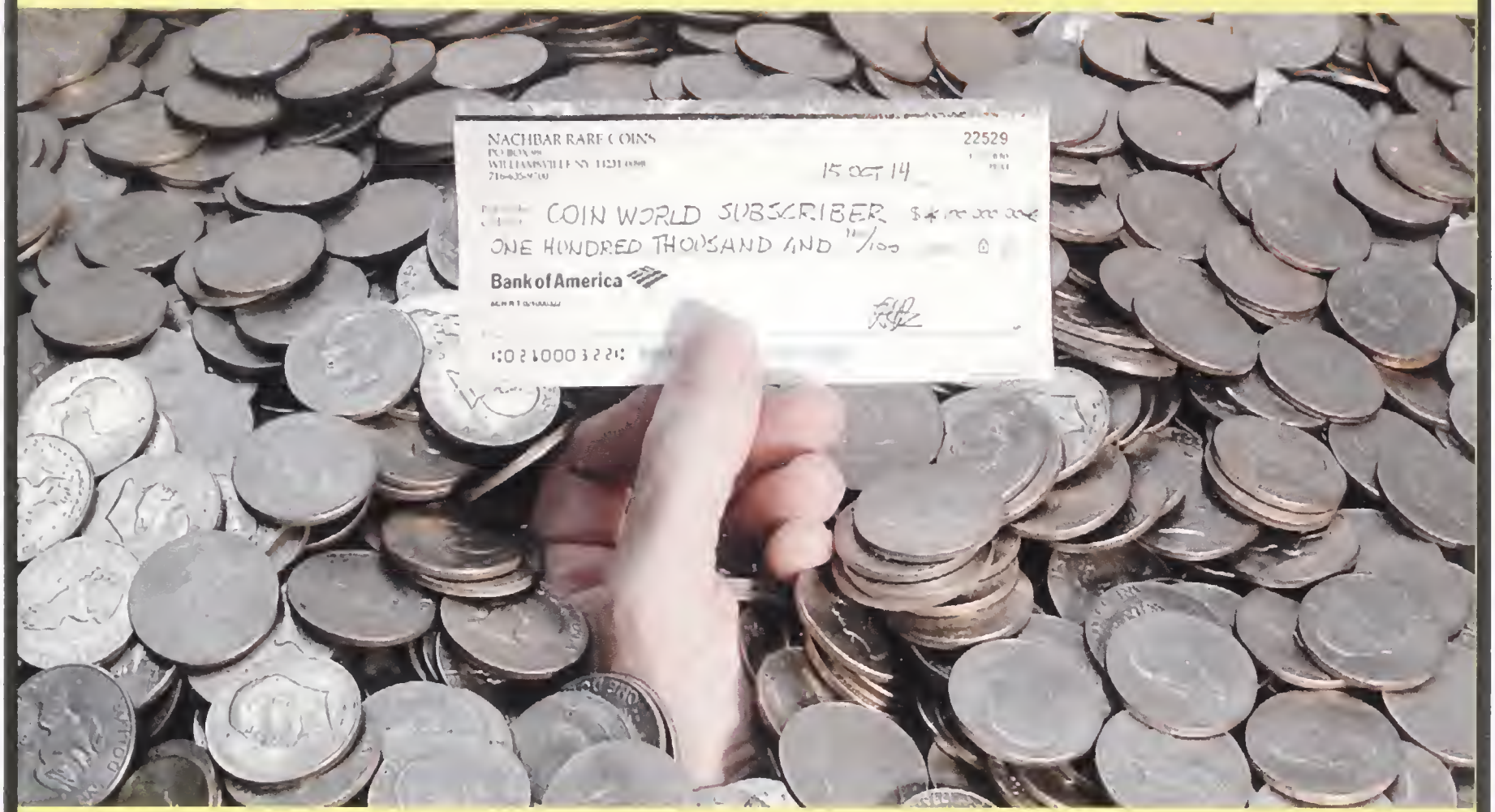
When Carson City Was Common

By Mark Benvenuto ••• begins on page 28

RAINY DAY HOARD



Earlier this month, a regular client of ours was in a cash pinch. His wife had been asking for granite countertops in their kitchen for several months. The cost was over $6,000 and he could not hold her off any longer. Then it hit him. He could pay for it with his stash of Ike Dollars that he had been saving for several years. He would bring them home regularly and drop them into five-gallon water jugs in his basement, nearly filling three big jugs. Soon he was in our office with 6,409 Ikes, so we then cut him a check and his wife got the kitchen upgrade. HIS "RAINY DAY HOARD" HAD SAVED THE DAY AND HIS WIFE WAS DELIGHTED! A couple of days later, he also sold to us a box full of certified platinum eagles, several very large gold medals, full bags of Walkers and Mercs, a bag and a half of BU Franklins and lots of proof US90 silver coins. Maybe his wife is looking now for a new addition, but we didn't dare to ask! DO YOU HAVE A RAINY DAY HOARD THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET TOP DOLLAR FOR? It doesn't have to be 320 pounds of Ike Dollars. HOW ABOUT ALL THOSE PROOF SETS, MINT SETS, COMMEMS AND SILVER DOLLARS YOU HAVE BEEN STORING FOR YEARS? Give me a call today and our instant check can be in your hand in no time at all!

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FUN Topics

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most photos by Fred Lake unless otherwise noted.

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President's Message

Tony Swicer • FUN President
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This January 2015 is the end of my four years as FUN President. It has been a great experience for me and I have met a lot of notable people in numismatics that I probably would not have met otherwise. Our trips to major coin shows have been great.

We, the officers and board of FUN, have accomplished a lot in the last four years including hiring a new webmaster, the ever-growing FUN-sponsored club bus trips to the FUN shows, introduction of the FUN coin club get-togethers at every show, hiring legal counsel, rewriting the FUN Coin Club Manual & Ideas for Club Programs, the exhibit area has expanded, the YN program has been expanded to include a "Coins & Kid's" booth, cameras and equipment have been updated at registration, and most importantly signing Cindy Wibker to a long term contract as FUN Coin Show Coordinator. It has been a pleasure working with a dedicated group of people. Every officer and board member has a specific area to manage at a FUN show and that is why the shows run so smoothly.

I have been on the FUN board since 2004 and I plan to continue. I have been Club Liaison most of that time. But I will work wherever FUN needs me. I want to thank current officers; Bob Hurst, Donna Moon, and Carrie Best, along with Board members Ed Abbott, Jim Best, Tony Bonaro, Gary Braisted, Randy Campbell, Nancy Casey, Fred Lake, Bernie Ososky, Gary Overton, Sandy Pearl, Bob Russell, and Cindy Wibker for all their support over the years. Also, thanks to past Board members; Bob French, Pete Hickey, Steve Hodges, Tom Palmer, Jeanne Shepard, Dick Wells, and Nancy Wilson.

I leave office in January with FUN in great shape and ready for the immediate future. I will be retiring from the coin shop in March, 2015 and I hope to visit coin clubs around the state as well as travel more.

The January 8-11, 2015 FUN show will have a great display of artifacts and sunken treasure from the 1715 Spanish Fleet that sank in a hurricane off the east coast of Florida 300 years ago, July 30th. Many never-before-seen artifacts will be on display from the State of Florida's Museum. We also will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of FUN. We hope to see you at our show in Orlando.

Tony

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• • • Tony Bonaro • • •
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t.bonaro@xorail.com

Hello again to all of our Young Numismatists.

I get to work with the youth in our club and that means I have the best job in F.U.N. Young Numismatists are the future of our hobby. You hear people say that at every show and in every meeting. I often don't know if our YN's know it and understand what it means. Every hobby needs a new younger generation to carry on the traditions of the old. We need you to make sure that coin collecting as a hobby and vocation are alive and well 10, 20 30 years from now. Many of the dealers and collectors of today will be gone by then. However, you and the coins will still be here. So here is the question, "What coins are you collecting today that you want in your collection 30 years from now?"

It's kind of hard to think about what coins you may want 30 years from now, but did you ever stop to think that it may take you 30 years to collect all of the coins you want before your set is complete? So here is a suggestion for the YN of today. Pick a coin, type of coin or any specific element or subject of coin that may interest you. This opens up a lot of possibilities. In fact your choices are almost endless.

Here's a few examples. I like to collect U.S. commemorative coins. Each one is different and each one has a story that goes along with the design on the obverse and reverse. My son David likes to collect silver art bars and any type of coin related to soccer, regardless of what country it comes from. My son Michael focuses on coins from Australia. He especially like Kookaburra's. Perhaps you may like Morgan dollars, Kennedy half dollars, Lincoln one cent pieces, or any type of dimes, nickels, or quarters. Make your choice and stick with it.

Don't be in a hurry to get every coin you can get your hands on. Take your time, find the coin that you like and the coin that fits your budget. You can always upgrade the quality of any coin in your collection at a later date. Understand that unless you become independently wealthy, there are going to be some coins that you can not purchase for your set. Do not let this keep you from collecting what you like.

Remember to read and learn about the coins you want to collect before you start buying any coins. In this hobby, knowledge is the key to success. This will keep you from wasting your money, and getting the best coins for your dollars. So pick a subject, learn about your choices, and start a collection that can last a lifetime.

While you are reading and learning about your coins, find the answer to the following YN Trivia questions of the quarter.

Tell me which U.S. Commemorative Coins tell us the following stories:

1. This coin tells us about an inventor who can brighten up your day.
2. This coin tells us about a man who became a General and a President. (two coins possible)
3. This coin tells us about a man who was destined to find a new world.
4. This coin tells us about a woman who wanted to help kids with special needs.
5. This coin tells us about two young men who wanted to be like birds.
6. This coin tells us about two young men who paddled a canoe upriver.
7. This coin tells us about a man who taught the blind to read.
8. This coin tells us about a city founded over four centuries ago.
9. This coin tells us about men raising a flag on an island in the Pacific Ocean.
10. This coin tells us about an animal who roamed the plains in herds of thousands.

Send your answers to t.bonaro@xorail.com by December 31, 2014.

I hope to see all of you at our January 2015 show. It will be different. It will be exciting. It will be a show you will remember for a lifetime. See you there.

Tony B.

Sincerely Cindy

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If you have not yet made your travel and hotel arrangements for FUN 2015, you will want to "hop to it," as my mother says, after you read what all we have in store for you. Hang on and enjoy the ride!

1. If you're looking for an elusive numismatic item for your collection, check out the incredible auction lots being offered by Heritage. Chances are good you'll find it there, and you can visit their lot viewing room and inspect it in person before you place your bid. If not, you can also search the 600 tables at the FUN show in hopes of locating it at a dealer's table. I bet you find it before you leave the show!

2. FUN is very proud to have a special collection of sunken treasure items exhibited at this show. The state museum in Tallahassee is bringing down some mind-boggling items that have never been displayed before. This is a must-see exhibit, and perhaps a once in a lifetime opportunity. Don't miss it!

3. For the first time in approximately five years, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing will be joining us in 2015. Be sure to see their mega-million dollar exhibit, uncut sheets of paper money, and the spider press demonstrations of the way paper money was printed in the good old days before our high-powered presses of today.

4. After you learn about printing paper money, visit the booth of Eureka Minting and see how coins were struck in a screw press long ago. They will have special FUN collectibles available for you, also.

5. Do you prefer to make your own collectible? Then you'll want to go meet Ray Dillard and family who will let you roll your own coin into an elongated with a custom die made for FUN 2015. He's listed in the convention program under Dillard's Elongateds.

6. For those of you who have dreamed of finding gold and striking it rich since you were a child, go to the booth of the Piedmont Gold Panners and let them teach you how to swirl the water in your miner's pan just right so you can hopefully see a sparkle of gold. You get to keep what you find, and I hope all of your childhood dreams come true!

7. FUN is pleased to once again have Dennis Boggs as Abraham Lincoln join us. If you haven't had a conversation with Honest Abe, you've missed out on a real treat. Not only does Dennis look like our 16th President, he knows the history as if he lived it himself.

8. If you need a little break from the hustle and bustle on the bourse floor, I recommend visiting Room W224A where our educational programs will be held all day Thursday, Friday and Saturday. There are 17 different topics to choose from. See the listing of titles and speakers in this issue of FUN Topics magazine on page 40.

9. Have you thought about joining a specialty club for your favorite segment of collecting? There are clubs for collectors of various varieties of coins, paper money, tokens and medals. Many of these clubs hold meetings during the FUN convention. Check the listing in the convention program and drop by and visit them, and hopefully sign up as a new member. Their members are eager to share their knowledge and expertise with you.

10. Another wonderful educational opportunity is the Exhibit Area on the bourse floor. Some of your fellow collectors have spent many hours and gone to great expense building an exhibit so they can share their collecting interest with you. If you spend a little time in this area reading the information and inspecting the collectibles, your numismatic knowledge bank will grow by leaps and bounds.

(continued on page 9)

Sincerely Cindy

(continued from page 8)

11. There are some activities for children, also. There is a designated Coins and Kids booth on the bourse floor that is open during all public hours. We also have a special young numismatist program on Saturday morning. If your children are Boy or Girl Scouts, they can earn their merit badge in our Saturday afternoon program.

12. If you want to get a head start on your convention fun and education, FUN and the ANA have a very special opportunity for you. The ANA will be in Orlando in the Rosen Plaza Hotel on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 6 and 7, conducting two special 2-day seminars. One is all about coin grading, and the other is counterfeit detection. These seminars will be taught by instructors hand-selected by the ANA, and are the most qualified in the country. See the applications on pages 21 and 22 in this issue of FUN Topics.

All of these events will be going on during the 60th Annual FUN Convention and everything is free of charge except the auction lots you win from the Heritage auctions and the ANA 2-day seminars. Have I convinced you yet that FUN 2015 is THE place to be January 8-11? Check our website at www.fun-topics.com often between now and January, as many more details will be posted as they are finalized. In the meantime, I strongly suggest you secure your hotel reservations (page 57) and make your travel plans, because you don't want to miss this convention. Remember to only use FUN's official housing bureau to make your hotel reservations. See you in Orlando in January!

Sincerely, Cindy

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Guinness Record Holding Coin Collection

On Display at FUN in 2015. A massive coin exibition of Mr. Justin Gilbert Lopez will be on display during the 2015 FUN show held in Orlando, FL from January 8 to January 11, 2015. Justin Gilbert Lopez will be bringing his record-holding collection from India to Orlando just for this display opportunity.

Mr. Lopez has established a record in the Guinness Book of World Records and the Limca Book of Records for his achievement. In the process of setting these records he shattered a 34-year-old record. The collection currently has over 7,000 coins from 291 countries

On display will be coins from the time of Alexander the Great, Persian, Roman and Islamic coins as well as coins from the Princely States of India and the modern countries of today.

The collection of Mr. lopez has coins from every country in the world, including those whose identy is currently under dispute.

Please be sure to visit the Educational Exhibits area of the bourse to view this historically significant collection.

Stack's Bowers Galleries Announces the Auction Sale Dates for

The D. Brent Pogue Collection

Stack's Bowers Galleries is pleased to announce our projected schedule for the auction events that will showcase what is certain to be the most valuable rare coin collection ever to cross the auction block. Carefully formed over many years by D. Brent Pogue with the support of his family in Dallas, the cabinet emphasizes United States coins of the early years, 1792 to the late 1830s, but includes many other treasures as well.

The finest 1804 Class I silver dollar, the Sultan of Muscat presentation specimen, now in the D. Brent Pogue Collection.

Included in the collection are many coins that are the finest known of their date and variety. The Sultan of Muscat Class I 1804 silver dollar, a nearly perfect Gem Proof, is far and away the finest known and set a record when the Pogue family bought it at the Walter H. Childs Collection Sale in 1999.

In the entire history of American numismatics there have been only two times when an 1822 half eagle has sold at auction: at the Harlan P. Smith Sale in 1906 and at the Eliasberg United States Gold Coin Collection in 1982. The Eliasberg coin, the finest of three known, was sold into the Pogue Collection. The other two examples are in the National Numismatic Collection in the Smithsonian Institution making the Pogue specimen the only collectible example and unique in that regard.

The Brand-Eliasberg-Pogue Specimen of the 1822 half eagle, the finest of three known, the other two being in the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian.

Connoisseurs and specialists in half cents, large cents, half dimes, dimes, quarters, half dollars, silver dollars, quarter eagles, half eagles, and eagles will have once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. Once sold, no collection of this scope and importance will ever be offered again.

If you would like to receive continuing information on the sale of the D. Brent Pogue Collection, without obligation, just contact Christine Karstedt by email at ckarstedt@stacksbowers.com. More information will be posted regularly as available at www.stacksbowers.

Projected Sale Dates
All will be held in New York City.

Thursday, May 14, 2015
Thursday, October 1, 2015
Thursday, February 18, 2016
Thursday, May 19, 2016
Thursday, September 22, 2016
Thursday, February 16, 2017
Thursday, May 18, 2017
Thursday, September 21, 2017

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Donna Moon (center) recieves the "**ANA Presidential Award**" from Walter Ostromecki, Jr.and Kim Kiick during the 2014 FUN show.

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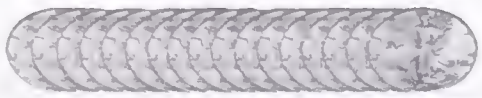

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The New CFCC Coin & Money Show

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Saturday, March 28th, 2015 – 10 am - 6 pm
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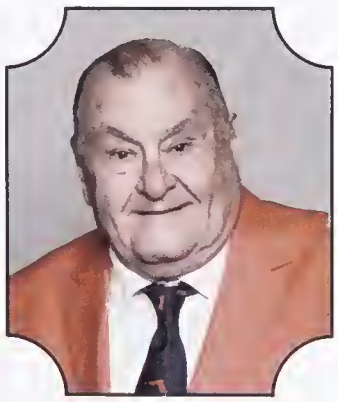

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My Trip to Summer Seminar 2014

By Zach Lauer

Thanks to the generosity of the Florida United Numismatists organization I was able to attend both weeks out in Colorado Springs for the American Numismatic Associations annual gathering of coin collectors Summer Seminar.

The trip began in the EARLY hours of Saturday, June 21st, for what would be a long day of travel to get from sunny central Florida to beautiful Colorado Springs. When the plane arrived in Colorado Springs, we were met at baggage claim by none other than Tiny, who is probably the most well-liked person at Summer Seminar. Once we arrived at the Colorado College, who hosts the annual event, we checked in and had lunch, which was a nice buffet style lunch with sandwiches and chips. It was there that I started seeing and recognizing people that I had met at previous Summer Seminars. After exchanging hellos, the recollections of past Summer Seminars began. Recalling past Summer Seminar memories always happens on the first day since there is not much excitement that goes on, mainly due to not everyone being there, and probably sleep deprivation.

During the first week of Summer Seminar, I chose to take the class "Intermediate Grading of US coins." I chose to take this course just to brush up on my grading skills. Learning the details between two grades, as taught in this course, as well as the other grading courses, can mean the difference between making money and losing money on a coin purchase. The instructors were two professionals who work for the major grading services, one each from PCGS and NGC. Having an instructor from both services was nice because it showed how each service operates.

(continued on page 17)

JOHN H. BURNS MEMORIAL FUND DONORS

It is with the kindest appreciation and heartfelt thanks that we acknowledge the generosity of these individuals and organizations for their monetary support to allow us to have our departed friend returned home and properly interred. We could not have accomplished this without your support.

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Leonard Augsburger
James & Helen Barry
Lucien L. Birkler
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William Burd
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Williamsport Area Numismatic Society
Wilmington Coin Club
John & Nancy Wilson
Myron Xenos
Robert Zavos

My Trip to Summer Seminar 2014

By Zach Lauer

(continued from page 16)

Classes started earlier than in years past due to schedule changes, with classes now starting Sunday morning instead of Sunday afternoon. After introducing ourselves to the class, we started looking at coins. After getting through 30 or so coins, it was lunch time. Lunch was in the college cafeteria and served a good selection of food. After lunch, which was 1½ hours, it was back to class to look at more coins and grade coins. This would be the schedule for the coming days of classes.

On Tuesday night, the YN's held their annual auction, which is an auction that is organized and put on totally by YN's. During the first week, the auction was able to raise $12,500 to be used to fund the YN Scholarship program, which provides funding for YN's to be able to attend Summer Seminar. Raising that kind of money would not happen without the generosity of donors and bidders alike, so if you donated or bought something at the auction, the YN's thank you.

On Wednesday evening, after classes were out and everybody got their certificates for passing the course, it was time to get ready for the awards banquet. The awards banquet is to recognize all of the instructors who took time out of their schedule to come teach a course at Summer Seminar. After the closing ceremony, it was time for most people to pack for Thursday departures, but not me. Thanks to the ANA, I was awarded a partial scholarship through them, so I had a whole week left in my trip.

With two days between the sessions this year as opposed to one, that left ample time to do extracurricular items such as tours. I chose to do the Denver Mint tour, as did several other friends of mine who stayed the two weeks as well. Being able to see where the government makes money for circulation was a cool experience. It was a special time to see the Denver Mint, as I got to see the manufacture of the commemorative Baseball Hall of Fame coins being produced as well. This was special because most commemoratives are struck at the West Point mint, not Denver.

On Saturday, June 28th, the new group of friends, again, friendships made at previous Summer Seminars, began arriving. During the second week of my trip, I definitely knew more people. During this 2nd week of numismatics, I chose to take the course Detecting Counterfeit and Altered Coins. I chose to take this class as opposed to another grading class because counterfeiters in China are getting better and better every day at making coins that could fool collectors. Therefore, I would say this class is imperative to take if you purchase raw coins.

On Tuesday, it was time for the annual YN auction. As mentioned previously, this is put on totally by the YN's, which they always do a fantastic job. At the second week auction, the YN's were able to raise an astounding $30,000. Watching the bidding that goes on at this auction makes attending the auction worth it.

Wednesday night was the closing ceremonies/awards banquet, and the food was excellent, as usual. After the banquet had concluded, it was time to pack and stay up all night, trying to maximize the amount of time left to spend with friends I only get to see once a year. At 4:00 AM the first shuttle to the airport arrived, which I had to be on to catch my flight. Saying goodbyes at Summer Seminar are definitely not fun, because I won't see these people for a whole year.

In closing, I would like to thank the FUN organization again for allowing me to spend a week totally immersed in numismatics, learning so much and making great friendships that will last a long time.

The End

All new members are considered to be FUN members in good standing, pending their names being published in FUN Topics magazine and no complaints filed against them by another FUN member within 30 days of this publication.

NEW FUN Life Members

NUMBER	NAME	STATE
LM 1012	BRUEGGEMAN, JEFF	TN
LM 2013	KOZIATEK, ROBERT	MO

NEW FUN Adult & Junior Members

25766	BRICKFIELD, EDUMND C. ESQ.	FL
25767	TROTTIER, TRACY G.	FL
25768	BOROWY, TED	IL
25769	SCHICKLER, HOWARD	FL
25770	JENKINS, SHARON	GA
25771	WOOD, WAKE	TX
25772	RUTKOSKY, BRAD	PA
25773	FOUDRAY, DAVID	IN
25774	HEYNE, JORDAN	IN
A25775	JOHNSON, JOE	IL
A25776	JOHNSON, MICHAEL	IL
25777	ROEDERER, RHONDA	LA
25778	NOVAK, DON	FL
25779	VENABLE, RICHARD	FL
25780	MILLER, JANE	VA
25781	BELLETTO, BRET	CA
A25782	SAILOR, VERONICA	ND
J25783	BOYER, ANDREW	MO
25784	CHANDLER, JOHN	FL
25785	WHITLOW, LONNIE	TN
A25786	WHITLOW, DIANE	TN
25787	SEGO, CAROL	ID
25788	ASHFORD, KATHRYN	CO
A25789	GREGORY, ANNE	NC
25790	ARNOLD, JILL	NY
25791	HAMMOND, EDWARD	NY
25792	INGEL, HANAN	CA
J25793	GIFFORD, LAURA	FL
25794	O'SHAUGHNESSY, RAY	FL
25795	CHRISTENSEN, HENRIK HOLT	NE
J25796	CHRISTENSEN, EMIL HOLT	NE
A25797	ALANO, JOHN	FL
A25798	JAMES, BENJAMIN	OH
25799	MORRIS, MICHAEL	MN
A25800	MORRIS, ERIN	MN
A25801	DURST, ROBIN	MN
25802	COXE, JOHN	CA
A25803	COXE, GAIL	CA
J25804	AGRE, STEVEN	MA
J25805	AGRE, ALEKA	MA
25806	ABRAMSON, MIKE	MN
A25807	FORTIN, DIANE	ME
25808	LAME', BARRY	CA
A25809	LAME', DIANE	CA
25810	GIDDINS, BENJAMIN	FL
A25811	GIDDINS, BETSY	FL

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Saturday,	July 4, 2015	Dealers 9-6	9:30 AM - 5:30 PM
Sunday,	July 5, 2015	Dealers 9-4	9:30 AM - 3 PM

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LM 363	ACKLEY, J. CAM	MN
LM 368	ADAMS, MARTIN G.	FL
LM 52	ASSIF, CHRISTOPHER JR.	CA
LM 289	BERNER, RONALD	NV
LM 341	BREUIL, JOHN R.	FL
LM 805	BRYAN, STEVE A.	DE
LM 498	BUTLER, JOHN JR.	NV
LM 435	FORBES, ROBERT W.	GA
LM 303	FULTZ, JACK	MO
LM 576	HARVEY, MARY JANE	FL
LM 687	HEISLEY, ROBERT P.	OH
LM 364	HILTON, CHRISTOPHER C.	TX
LM 510	LEBER, STEVE	FL
LM 272	LEHRMAN, EVAN	NY
LM 676	MARKS, JAMES	KS
LM 234	MCDANIEL, JAMES	FL
LM 800	MCHUGH, ARTHUR J.	FL
LM 470	NIES, ROBERT J. JR.	FL
LM 410	PHIPPS, PHILIP P.	ENGLAND
LM 249	SCHALK, EDWARD C.	CO
LM 673	SPECTOR, DAVID	CA
LM 527	STANKE, K. BOB	TX
LM 523	TAYLOR, WAYNE J.	MI
LM 323	TERPIN, DENNIS A.	IL
LM 736	UDELL, BARRY J.	FL
LM 56	WILLIS, ROLLAND	IN

F.U.N. ELECTION

Nominations for this upcoming election have been submitted and every one of the nominees has acccepted their nominations. The four officers and six board members positions are up for election. Secretary Donna Moon informs us that there is one person per position that have been nominated. There will be no ballots sent out this year as we do not need to hold an election. The followoing people will be taking the positions for a two-year term. We are including a short biography from each nominee.

PRESIDENT: Randy Campbell - Randy Campbell was first elected to the FUN Board of Directors in 1979. He has served FUN as a board member, as Vice President, and as President of FUN in 1989 and 1990. He also served as Chairman of the Board in 1991 and 1992.

In 1979 Randy was appointed to the new position of FUN Director of Education. His goal was to arrange for and promote a truly outstanding series of educational progams at every FUN convention. By all accounts, Randy has succeeded in that effort. He's now serving his 36th consecutive year as FUN Education Director. He would greatly appreciate your support in the upcoming election for President of FUN.

Vice PRESIDENT: Bob Hurst - Bob Hurst collected and sold ancient Roman coinage beginning in 1973 while stationed in Italy. Large cents and bust half-dollars by date and Overton variety were his next challenge. He also collected Morgan dollars by date, mintmark and VAM varieties. His next move was to collect foreign coinage, specializing in crown and thaler size coins. Bob retired from the USAF in 1991 and began traveling the country as a full-time foreign and ancient coin dealer. He was voted onto the F.U.N. Board in 1993 and has held many positions, including President.

Bob has a strong and varied background in numismatics as a dealer and collector. He proudly promotes numismatics at all shows and conventions that he attends whether they are local or national shows. As your next vice president, he will work closely with the board of directors and continue to help and support FUN in every way possible.

SECRETARY: Donna Moon - I have served on the board of Florida United Numismatists, Inc. since 2007. I currently hold the office of Secretary. During my tenure on the FUN Board, I strived to improve communication and promote continuing education within the F.U.N. organization by capitalizing on the educational benefits of social networking.

I want to continue my original mission of maintaining an open dialog between our members and the Board of Directors. As I have stated many times since my election, opening the lines of communication between FUN, our members and the general collecting public is imperative. Communication and listening to the needs of our members and convention guests can only lead to the enhancement of our show and the FUN organization.

Volunteer Positions Held During F.U.N Annual Convention(s):
2007 - 2011 Public Registration 2008 - 2012 Membership
2008 - 2014 Communications (i.e. managing message center on F.U.N. bourse floor)
2011- 2014 Marketing/Communications of ALL Social Networking sites

Offices Held: FUN Director 2007-2011; FUN Vice President 2011-2013 FUN Secretary 2013-present Central Florida Coin Club: Treasurer 2006 - present; Secretary 1999 to 2006; Director 1998 -1999; Central Florida Coin Club Bourse Chair -2001 to 2014

Memberships: FUN; ANA; Central States Numismatic Society; Central Florida Coin Club. Casselberry Coin Club.

(continued on page 20)

F.U.N. ELECTION

(continued from page 19)

Awards of Merit:
2012 Polly Abbott Service Award for outstanding service to F.U.N during the previous calendar year.
Three time recipient of Central Florida Coin Club's Edna Walker Award for outstanding service.

In closing, I am very proud of the work I have done with FUN. I look forward to serving all of you for another term as Secretary.

TREASURER: Carrie Best - Carrie has been involved with Florida United Numismatists, Inc. for over 25 years. She is a life member and has helped with dealer registration for many of those years and is now in charge of Photo ID at both FUN Conventions every year. She is Past President and is the current Treasurer. She enjoys working with other board members to help make the FUN show the success that it Is.

If re-elected Treasurer of F.U.N., she hopes to represent you the collector, investor, and dealer as best that she can. She feels that the future of Numismatics is dependent upon the youth keeping their interest in our industry. The way to do this is to educate them about the hobby and keep them active in the numismatic field.

Carrie has won the Award of Merit, which is the highest award given out by FUN and was awarded for her dedicated service to Florida United Numismatists, Inc. She has also been awarded the FUN Presidential Award, and she and her husband Jim have received two ANA Presidential Awards, along with the prestigious Krause Numismatic Ambassador Award.

Directors

Eddie Abbott - I now serve you as a member of the Board of Directors for FUN and have done so enthusiastically for over 20 years. I have participated in the annual FUN shows as the "keeper of Keys and Cases" and any other capacity that may be required during the course of the shows. I am also in charge of "Pages" during each of the FUN shows, insuring the dealers that there is plenty of help when needed.

In addition to my affiliation with FUN, I am a life member of the Clearwater Coin Club and am on the Board of Directors. I have tremendously enjoyed my tenure as a member of the Board of Directors of FUN and wish to continue in my present position. I thank you for your support.

Jim Best - I am seeking reelection to the Board of Directors for the years 2015-2016. I have served as First Vice President, Second Vice-President, and Director in years past. For the past 15 years I have been Editor of the organization's publication, FUN-Topics. I have worked at dealer registration at the FUN show for the past 28 years. I have been a member of FUN since 1984.

I am a strong supporter of FUN and believe that the organization is only as strong as its membership and I challenge each member to become involved in its activities. I also ask each member to support the endeavors of the organization so that it can uphold its traditions as the leading coin organization. I am the recipient of two ANA Presidential Awards, Numismatic Ambassador Award and a FUN Presidential Award.

(continued on page 26)

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

SCHOOL OF NUMISMATICS

FUNDAMENTALS OF GRADING U.S. COINS (2-day Seminar)

January 6-7, 2015

in conjunction with the 60th Annual FUN Convention Orlando, Florida

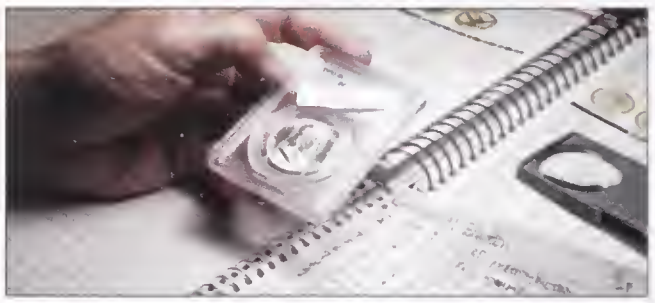
Sharpen your grading skills! Knowledge of coin grading not only makes you more confident on the bourse floor, but also adds to your enjoyment of the hobby by helping take the worry out of numismatic purchases. Learn how U.S. coins should be graded according to the latest ANA and market standards. The seminar covers many topics and emphasizes the fundamental principles of grading circulated U.S. coins, including the history and evolution of grading standards, analysis of a coin's focal points, technical and market grading, how to determine initial signs of wear and evaluating surface marks, strike, luster and eye appeal.

Instructors: Rod Gillis, ANA Numismatic Educator; and **Mike Ellis**, ANA Governor and Variety Specialist, Mike Ellis Rare Coins; and **Bill Fivaz**, co-author of *The Cherrypicker's Guide to Rare Coin Varieties*.

Time: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, January 6-7, 2015

Tuition: $248 for ANA and FUN members; $348 for non-members

Hotel Information/Reservations: 407-833-8938



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Fundamentals of U.S. Coin Counterfeit Detection	Qty.	Price	Total
ANA and FUN Member Rate		$ 248.00	$
ANA Life Member Discount		– $ 40.00	$
Non-member Rate		$ 348.00	$
ANA Basic Membership (www.money.org)		$ 28.00	$
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AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

SCHOOL OF NUMISMATICS

INTRODUCTION TO COUNTERFEIT DETECTION OF UNITED STATES COINS SEMINAR (2-day Seminar)

January 6-7, 2015

in conjunction with the 60th Annual FUN Convention Orlando, Florida

In two days of intensive hands-on study, you will learn and understand how to detect counterfeit and altered coins commonly seen in the marketplace today. All types and denominations of U.S. coins will be discussed with genuine and counterfeit specimens present for hands-on examination and study. There also will be opportunities for group discussion and one-on-one instruction.

Instructor: Brian Silliman, Senior Numismatist, Panda America, www.pandaamerica.com, former grader/authenticator, Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC), and former authenticator ANA Authentication Bureau (ANAAB).

Time: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, January 6-7, 2015

Tuition: $248 for ANA and FUN members; $348 for non-members

Hotel Information/Reservations: 407-833-8938

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Please note the FUN show 2015 is in the West Building, Hall D. The west building is the "older" building of the OCCC,

From the Orlando International Airport (EAST) 25 minutes
1. Go west on SR 528 to exit 1 (International Drive)
2. Go north (right) approximately one mile to Convention Center
3. The West Building parking lot can be accessed by turning left at Convention Way (south entrance), Exhibit Way (north entrance) or following Westwood Boulevard/West Entrance Drive (west entrance).

From Daytona Beach, Downtown Orlando or Executive Airport (NORTHEAST)
1. Take Interstate 4 west to the SR 528 exit (Exit 72)
2. Travel east on SR 528 to exit 1 (International Drive)
3. North (right) approximately one mile to Convention Center
4. From International Drive, the West Building parking lot can be accessed by turning left at either Convention Way (south entrance) or Exhibit Way (north entrance). From Westwood Boulevard, the west entrance is accessible via West Entrance Drive.

From Gainesville, Florida (NORTHWEST) 2 hours
1. Take Interstate 75 south to Florida's Turnpike
2. Go south on Florida's Turnpike to Interstate 4 west
3. Go west on Interstate 4 to the SR 528 exit (Exit 72)
4. Go east on SR 528 to exit 1 (International Drive)
5. Go north (right) approximately one mile to Convention Center
6. From International Drive, the West Building parking lot can be accessed by turning left at either Convention Way (south entrance) or Exhibit Way (north entrance). From Westwood Boulevard, the west entrance is accessible via West Entrance Drive.

From Tampa, Florida (SOUTHWEST) 1 Hour 15 Minutes
1. Take Interstate 4 east to the SR 528 exit (Exit 72)
2. East on SR 528 to exit 1 (International Drive)
3. North (right) approximately one mile to Convention Center
4. From International Drive, the West Building parking lot can be accessed by turning left at either Convention Way (south entrance) or Exhibit Way (north entrance). From Westwood Boulevard, the west entrance is accessible via West Entrance Drive.

From Miami, Florida (SOUTHEAST) 3 – 4 hours. Via Interstate 95
1. Take Interstate 95 north to SR 528
2. Go west on SR 528 to exit 1 (International Drive)
3. Go north (right) approximately one mile to Convention Center
4. From International Drive, the West Building parking lot can be accessed by turning left at either Convention Way (south entrance) or Exhibit Way (north entrance). From Westwood Boulevard, the west entrance is accessible via West Entrance Drive.

Via Florida's Turnpike
1. Take Turnpike north to Interstate 4 west
2. Go west on Interstate 4 to the SR 528 exit (Exit 72)
3. Go east on SR 528 to exit 1 (International Drive)
4. Go north (right) approximately one mile to Convention Center
5. From International Drive, the West Building parking lot can be accessed by turning left at either Convention Way (south entrance) or Exhibit Way (north entrance). From Westwood Boulevard, the west entrance is accessible via West Entrance Drive.

For further assistance, please call (407) 685-1061.

F.U.N. ELECTION

(continued from page 20)

I am currently a member of the following numismatic organizations: American Numismatic Association, Blue Ridge Numismatic Association of which I am Vice President, Tennessee State Numismatic Society, Georgia Numismatic Association, International Association of Silver Art Collectors (IASAC) of which I am past president, The Casino Chips and Gaming Tokens Collectors Club, Inc, and the Greater Jacksonville Coin Club, Ocala Coin Club, Central Florida Coin Club, Brandon Coin Club, and many other local clubs.

Nancy Casey - I was Secretary for four years and am now back on the Board of Directors of which I have been on the board for 7 years. I have been in charge of Dealer Registration for the past 9 years and had volunteered for 15 years prior to serving on the Board of Directors. It is my pleasure to serve the dealers, taking seriously that the Registration Desk is the first and most important impression dealers have of FUN. It has been great working in that capacity and getting to know everyone.

Through FUN for 14 years, I have participated in the Young Numismatist program which provides education, guidance and information to young people in an effort to promote collecting coins as both a hobby and profession among our youth.

In addition to my affiliation with FUN, I am a member of the Clearwater Coin Club. I was recipient of FUN's exhibit award for 2001. For the past 25 years, I have been a solid supporter of FUN and its endeavors. It would be my pleasure to serve the FUN organization and our membership.

Bernie Ososky - My interest in coin collecting began when I was nine years old. My father had a lawn business and I would go along with him to help out. When payment was due one summer in 1956, my father worked out a deal with the customer to give me a complete penny book - 1941 thru 1956 - for the work I had preformed. Excited? You bet! Because of my thoughtful dad and that nice customer, the foundation was laid. Fast forward to 2014, my love and knowledge for collecting coins has come full circle and has exceeded my wildest dreams. By the way, I still have that penny book!

I served in the US Army for three years and continued my civilian service career by working for the US Postal Service for thirty-four years. While still employed by the Postal Service, I attended many coin shows all over the state of Florida as a collector so I could enhance my collection, meet dealers, and see what made coin shows successful. As a result, I knew that I wanted someday to be a promoter or somehow involved in the coins show business. In 1993, I started a company called National Racing Promotions and for six years promoted NASCAR & Hot Wheel shows all over the state of Florida. I even negotiated meet & greets with drivers including Michael Waltrip, Kyle Petty and Sterling Marlin. This experience gave me the background of the inner workings of putting on shows and what it takes to make them successful.

Upon retirement from the Post Office in 2003, I was hired at Dales Coins & Jewelry in Dunedin, Florida. After twelve years of dedicated employment, I am currently the manager of this fine establishment.

I have been a member of FUN for twenty-seven years, the last two serving on the Board of Directors. Also, I am a life member and am currently on the Board of Directors for the Clearwater Coin Club, and have been for over twelve years. With my knowledge and background in the collectible business, I can be your voice in shaping its future!

(continued on page 27)

F.U.N. ELECTION

(continued from page 26)

Gary Overton - Gary was born, raised, and educated in east Tennessee. In 1972 he began a career with the U.S. Air Force, finally settling in Satellite Beach in 1986. In 1987, he began dealing part-time in coins at local and regional shows and became a full-time dealer upon his retirement in 1992. He is past president, vice president, and treasurer of the South Brevard Coin Club. He is past Chairman of the Board of the South Brevard Coin Club and the Titusville Coin Club, positions he held from 1993-2002. He has been on the board of directors of FUN since 1995 and the Blue Ridge Numismatic Association since1996, currently serving as Past President.

Gary is a member of ANA and a life member of FUN, BRNA, TSNS, GNA, SCNA, and numerous other local and state organizational clubs. He currently attends 20-30 shows per year throughout the southeast. He also owns and runs Coastal Coin Supply in Satellite Beach, Florida.

Gary received a BS in history from Excelsior College. He currently resides in Satellite Beach with his wife, Mary and they have three daughters: Katy, Heidi, and Sheena.

Gary's varied background in numismatics and his experience in administrating club affairs makes him an extremely capable and qualified candidate for the FUN board. His participation at numerous shows throughout the year affords him the opportunity to promote FUN around the country.

Cindy Wibker - My love of numismatics began in the spring of 1975 when I purchased my first Civil War Token for $1.00. Since that day I have been totally involved in every aspect of the hobby – as a board member or officer of various organizations, writing articles, contributing author to 10 books on topics of tokens and medals, exhibitor and exhibit judge, and currently as the convention coordinator of Florida United Numismatists (FUN). I was fortunate enough to turn my passion for this wonderful hobby into a very demanding career dealing with numismatists and collectors from around the world.

I hold a life membership in FUN, the ANA (American Numismatic Association), TAMS (Token And Medal Society), CWTS (Civil War Token Society), OHNS (Original Hobo Nickel Society) and CSNS (Central States Numismatic Society). I am also a charter member of WIN (Women In Numismatics). It's a privilege to join these groups of other dedicated numismatists.

Thank you for your vote of confidence in me to serve two more years on the FUN board of directors. I promise to listen to your suggestions and take them to the FUN board, when appropriate. I will continue to work diligently for the betterment of FUN in every aspect, and to keep our organization #1 for serving the needs of both collectors and dealers. I look forward to the 2015-2017 term of office on the FUN board.

The End

The group that works well together for a successful FUN show!

When Carson City Was Common

By Mark Benvenuto

Hot trends among coin collectors come and go, with certain series or commemorative coins taking the spotlight for a period of time. Right now, the gold Kennedy half dollars will probably have some sort of primacy of place, at least through 2014 and 2015. But other coins seem to be long-term collector favorites. The silver of the short-lived Carson City Mint might fall into this category. It always appears to cost more than the coins of other Mints, and it always seems to be popular. Curiously though, there are some 'CC' coins that are actually rather common. Let's take a quick look at a few.

Seated Liberty Dimes, 1875, 1876, and 1877

Although the Carson City Mint was in business as early as 1870, as far as producing Seated Liberty dimes was concerned, it was only in the game from 1873 to 1878. Keep in mind that the Mint was situated in the midst of America's gold and silver country, but that even then, producing dimes and other small silver coinage was probably never its major mission. Thus, the high cost today of the 1873 and 1874 dimes is an indicator of just how tiny the output was for those first couple of years. It was 1875 that saw a leap in production, to over 4.6 million coins. That doesn't make the 1875-CC Seated Liberty dime a junk box coin today, but it does bring the price down to reasonable levels, such as $100 in a grade like EF-40.

The years 1876 and 1877 saw even higher mintages of the 'CC' dimes than 1875, and today's prices reflect that. In fact, 1877 was the only year that there were more dimes made in Carson City than in either of the other two Mints. Only the 1877-CC dime is more common than the Philadelphia dime of the same year.

By 1878, the dimes of Carson City again become expensive, since the output again took a nose dive. But still, there are three 'CC' dimes that a person can collect inexpensively.

The Twenty-Cent Pieces

While there are 1875 and 1876 twenty-cent pieces that were made in Carson City, neither is all that common. The 133,290 made in 1875 makes this by far the most common 'CC' coin here, but the 1875-S has an output that dwarfs it. Collectors who want a single type of this coin invariably go for that '75-S.

Carson City Quarters

The first quarters to come out of the territorial Mint bearing the 'CC' mark were dated 1870. But the mintage was tiny – and that means the price today is astronomical, if you can even find one. Much like the dimes, it took a few years for things to get up some steam when it came to these quarters. There are again three years that might qualify as affordable, but now they are the 1876, the 1877, and the 1878. The first two of these three years saw mintages of more than 4 million each, and the final one came in just below 1 million. Once again, they are not the type of coins you'll often find in some dealer's bargain bin, but for $150 - $250 a person can land each one in EF-40 grade. All three of them drop below $100 if you choose a coin at or near the F-12 grade.

Half Dollars with the 'CC'

As with the dimes and quarters, it took a few years of production for the Carson City Mint to hit its stride in terms of half dollars. They were produced as early as 1870, but once again in only small amounts. It was 1875 that saw the first of three consecutive years in which mintages climbed over the seven-figure mark. The year 1875 had just over 1 million, 1876 saw 1.95 million, and 1877 pegged 1.4 million. Since these are examples of pretty hefty silver, each costs about $300 in EF-40, and considerably more when you reach up to the mint state grades. But $100 - $150 will still take a person a long way, if they search about among the better looking, circulated halves.

(continued on page 31)

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REGISTRATION

There is no pre-registration for the public. Admission is free, but once you arrive at the FUN convention you will need to go to the Public Registration booths and pick up a "HELLO" badge to enter the show. Dealers with tables need to report to the Dealer Registration booths. Your photo ID information will be filed alphabetically by the dealer's business name. If you are sharing a bourse space with another dealer, all information is filed under the primary dealer's business name. You must go to Dealer Registration before going to the Photo ID lines.

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When Carson City Was Common

By Mark Benvenuto

(continued from page 28)

'CC' Silver Dollars

Numerous sources claim that the Carson City branch Mint was made to deal with the silver and gold coming out of the western territories of a growing United States, and that when it came to producing coins, bigger was better. It should be no surprise then that both Trade dollars and Morgan dollars came roaring out of the Mint, at least for a few years.

Honestly, there really is no such thing as a cheap United States trade dollar, unless you care to add one to your collection in a heavily circulated grade, which also has numerous chop marks on it (the marks used by Chinese merchants and banking houses to verify that a coin was good silver). But as far as Trade dollars that might be affordable, the 1874-CC and 1875-CC each had mintage totals over 1 million coins. It takes at least $600 to break into the upper, circulated grades, but you do get a lot of coin for your money. There are 'CC' marked coins in this series with other dates, but all are much more expensive.

The Morgan dollar series

For any collector with the patience and the time, there are plenty of 'CC' Morgan silver dollars to be had. They were minted from 1878 to 1893, with a couple of missing years in there, and some years the mintages were low, while others saw totals in the millions. The 1878-CC is the first in the Morgan series, and also the first that might be considered affordable. It costs less than $150 for the EF-40 coin, and about $400 for an MS-60 piece. The 1880-CC is somewhat more expensive in each grade, but not painfully so. The 1882-CC, as well as the 1883-CC and 1884-CC are probably the cheapest Morgan dollars with this mint mark. Each year saw more than 1 million produced, and with some of them sitting in vaults for decades, it's not impossible to find mint state specimens today.

Even though there were 'CC' marks on Morgan dollars all the way to 1893, beyond the 1884, only the 1890-CC and 1891-CC might be considered affordable. These two years saw high mintages, with the 1890-CC coming in at a high for the group of 2.3 million. But even with this going for it, that particular Morgan will run several hundred dollars in the mint state grades.

'CC' Gold?

Yes, there was plenty of gold coinage produced at the Carson City Mint. Yes, some of it was produced in rather large quantities. No, none of it is inexpensive. Not ever. Not at all. Gold coins with that Carson City mint mark range in price from the low thousands of dollars up to prices equal to a good house. For now, we'll stick with the 'CC' silver.

All things considered, there will perhaps always be Carson City silver coins that are expensive. The mintages for some years were just too low for them to be called common. But look at what we've just found. There are several years in which dimes, quarters, half dollars, and even silver dollars from Carson City can be added to a collection for rather reasonable prices. That's not too bad at all.

The End

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Consignment deadline: November 17, 2014

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NYINC, New York | January 4-5; 12, 2015
Consignment deadline: November 7, 2014

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SP63 PCGS, CAC
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FRIENDS of F.U.N.

This is a new column about the friends of Florida United Numismatists who volunteer their time to help run the best coin show in the world. Each column will highlight the current life of one or two of our regular volunteers. Most of these volunteers have been helping put on the shows for many years. We have asked each one of them for a short biography of what they do when they are not helping with the FUN show and then what they have done over the years to help put on the FUN show. Enjoy the column and if you have any questions or input, let the editor know at funtopics@aol.com. ENJOY!

My name is Glenda Hocker. I am Carrie Best's sister from the great state of Kansas; Shawnee, Kansas, that is. I have two children, Tim and Heather, and four fabulous grandchildren, Dillon 16, Alexa 7, Logan 6 ½ and Tucker who is 19 months old. My grandchildren are the light of my life. I love spending time with them and their parents. I also love to travel and read.

For sixteen and a half years I have worked for the NBRC/AMP which is located in Olathe, Kansas. I am the Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer. As you can well imagine, I have quite a busy workload working for both of the top-level employees. They are a handful but a delight to work for and with. The National Board for Respiratory Care, Inc. (NBRC) is a voluntary health certifying board which was created in 1960 to evaluate the professional competence of respiratory therapists. Applied Measurement Professionals, Inc. (AMP), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the NBRC, is engaged in test development, test administration, and educational and occupational measurement. Under an agreement with its parent corporation, AMP assists in the development of examinations and provides test administration services.

I have a rather demanding job keeping track of busy schedules as well as keeping our Boards up to date. Our Boards meets three times a year and it is my responsibility to prepare and post all materials for both the Board meetings and various other committee meetings. It is a two week task to prepare all the materials. I also handle all correspondence for both the CEO and COO as well as for our Judicial and Ethics Committee which handles all disciplinary actions taken against respiratory therapists by the state.

I also am the Executive Secretary for the Lambda Beta Society which is the National Honorary Society for respiratory care students. We process over 400 new members annually. It is quite an honor to be nominated to the Lambda Beta Society. We give annual scholarships as well to well-deserving students.

This is just a touch on all of my responsibilities, and, although my job can be very stressful and demanding, NBRC/AMP is a wonderful company. It is very family friendly and takes pride in their staff and their charitable activities.

The first time I went to a FUN Show, I simply came to get away from Kansas in January and see my sister. Who wouldn't want to come to Florida in the winter. It was in Fort Lauderdale in 2005. The second year, they put me to work at the Early Bird Station and, if I remember correctly, the first time I worked a show in Orlando. They figured if I was going to be there they might as well put me to work. Back then we had to type the ID cards on an old electric typewriter. (Do you remember what those are?) What a job! Well, I am still working the Early Bird window. I have been registering some of the very same people ever since that first year. In any given January, I register at least 100 -150 Early Birds. I also work the Summer FUN Show although not quite as busy. If you don't know, Early Bird status gets you in with the dealers all but two hours after the doors open on Wednesday afternoon. I understand you can get some really good deals by getting an Early Bird Badge but I wouldn't know because I am at the registration table getting you all set up so you can go in early. Working with FUN is no different than my everyday job as it is very important to be accurate and work in a timely fashion.

Although I hate to admit it, I don't know a lot about coins, I love working with the FUN staff and the dealers who attend the shows. The FUN staff is a great group of people that put on a great show twice a year. And, besides, who wouldn't want to get away from the Kansas winter and come to sunny Florida? See you in January at the best and biggest coin show, the FUN Coin Show in Orlando FL.

ATTENTION!!!

Many FUN Show delegates are being contacted by telemarketing hotel scammers via phone and email stating they work with Coin Shows and eluding to an official association with our event. They are not our official hotel provider. Our official housing provider will never call you to book your hotel rooms. TO GUARANTEE you are working with our official hotel provider, use the hotel link on the FUN Show website or the hotel housing fax form located on page 57 of this edition of FUNTopics. A group calling and scamming convention delegates are calling themselves EHM, or Exhibitors Housing Management or Global Housing or Convention Housing Planners. A quick Google search of these telemarketers shows many complaints posted online against them, including Better Business Bureau complaints. They are charging: * Up front, non-refundable deposits * $20.00 surcharges per person * Up charges, per person - we received an invoice today showing someone was charge 5 times an additional $75.00 per person for 4 rooms. * The phone number they provide on their confirmation is a phone number with no answer and no option to leave a message. * We have seen their credit card authorization form states they are authorized to charge the credit card "multiple times". None of the above is a hotel industry standard. This is a national problem among tradeshows and conventions. Be safe, use your show's website - in this case, http://www.funtopics.com to find a link and phone number for your reservations needs. * Our official hotel service, DF Meetings & Events, will not charge your credit card in advance and does not add surcharges or up charges. This is the only organization FUN management has authorized to represent us for hotel bookings. Guard your identity and make certain your reservation is authentic.

The Excitement of a Find

By Wayne A. Munscher

All coin collectors, at some time, fantasize about finding a one-of-a-kind coin. It is human nature.

Of all ancient fields available to collect, I believe the Byzantine series offers the best potential for finding coins not previously known by experts in the field such as Sear & Clark and Wolfgang Hahn.

My reasoning is, Byzantine coins are not collected by many. Most dealers have an expanded knowledge of Greek, Roman, Celtic and Islamac coins but have only a few Byzantine coins for which they know very little about.

My first find happened by mistake. I purchased a coin that was not the Sear number referenced. I returned the coin. Realizing I was accepting dealers' assignment of Sear numbers without confirming led me to inspect all of my coins to reconfirm Sear number assigned. I found five coins that did not meet either Sear or Clark reference description. Case #1, Sear #101, should show on the reverse of the coin a star to the left of the "M", and a crescent to the right. My coin has a crescent to the left of the "M", and a star to the right. I sent a letter and photos of the coin to Wolfgang Hahn. He sent a return letter stating my coin was not known. A new variety of Sear #101?

Case #2, Sear #125, the coin reverse should be a star to the left of the "M", and a cross to the right. Instead, my coin has a star to the left and right of the "M", a reverse close to the reverse of Sear #62 and #160. I did confirm the variety of Sear #125 was not known by two U.S. dealers well versed in Byzantine coins.

Three other coins were not as described in Sear or Clark's reference books. One has an unknown officina, and the other two had a cross to the left of the "M", and a star to the right. Instead of a star to the left and right of the "M".

Many dealers who handle Byzantine coins sell bulk lots of unidentified coins. The excitement of finding a coin not referenced in Sear, Clark, or other published books is part of the joy of collecting.

I invite all ancient collectors to consider the Byzantine series as an addition to what they are now collecting. Why allow one thousand years, known as the Dark Ages, to slip by?

Show Calendar

JIM BEST • Show Coordinator
PO Box 5202 ••• Lakeland, Fl 33807-5202
863-644-0903• • • **Email:** funtopics@aol.com
fax: 863-701-7370

2014

November 7-9
Tennessee State Numismatic Society Annual Coin Show, Camp Jordan Arena, Chattanooga, TN. Contact: Gayle Pike, 901-327-1703
email: pikegk@aol.com
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November 8
St. Petersburg Coin Club Show. Disabled American Veterans, 4801 37th Street North, ST. Petersburg, FL 33713. Contact: Robert Wiley PH: 727-580-4108, PO Box 1201 St Petersburg, FL 33784-1201.

November 9
South Brevard & Missle Stamp Club Show, Eau Galle Civic Center, 1551 Highland Ave., Melbourne, FL. Contact: Alysha Wilson. PH: 321-751-3647.
email: wilson4808@bellsouth.net

November 14-15
Greater Jacksonville Coin Club, Coin and Collectible Show, Morocco Shrine Temple, 3800 St. Johns Bluff Rd., Jacksonville, FL Contact: Matt Adams, PH: 904-703-3311..
email: gjccpres@bellsouth.net
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November 16
Fort Lauderdale Coin Club Coin & Stamp Show, Volunteer Park Comty Ctr. 12050 W Sunrise Blvd. Plantation, FL ++ Contact: Joe Marshall, PO Box 22102, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33335-2102
PH: 954-802-4967.
email: magikj48@yahoo.com

November 22
West Hernando Coin Club Show. Knights of Columbus, 10470 Spring Hill Drive, Spring Hill, FL 34608. 9-3. Contact: Bruce PH: 352-584-3163.
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November 22
Fort Myers Coin and Paper Money Show, Masonic Lodge, 10868 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers, 9-3.Contact: Jay Chamberlain, PO Box 62056, Ft. Myers, FL 33906, Ph: 239-297-8592.
email: jcflcoins@comcast.net

November 23
Palm Beach Coin Show, American Polish Club, 4725 Lake Worth Road, Greenacres, FL Contact: Tony Swicer, PO Box 5823, Lake Worth, FL 33466.

December 6-7
Silver Sands Coin, Currency and Stamp Show, Bay County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall, Panama City, FL Contact: Doug Gibson PH: 850-215-8565. Free admission and parking
email: nfcdshop@knology.net

December 7
Gold Coast Coin, Stamp, & Collectibles Show, Mardi Gras Casino, .841 N. Federal Hwy, Hallandale Beach, FL
Contact: Bill Sanders
PH: 305-389-5847
email: www.GoldCoastCoinClub.com

December 13
St. Petersburg Coin Club Show. Disabled American Veterans, 4801 37th Street North, ST. Petersburg, FL 33713. Contact: Robert Wiley PH: 727-580-4108, PO Box 1201 St Petersburg, FL 33784-1201.

December 14
South Brevard & Missle Stamp Club Show, Eau Galle Civic Center, 1551 Highland Ave., Melbourne, FL. Contact: Alysha Wilson. PH: 321-751-3647.
email: wilson4808@bellsouth.net

December 20
Fort Myers Coin and Paper Money Show, Masonic Lodge, 10868 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers, 9-3.Contact: Jay Chamberlain, PO Box 62056, Ft. Myers, FL 33906, Ph: 239-297-8592.
email: jcflcoins@comcast.net

December 21
Fort Lauderdale Coin Club Coin & Stamp Show, Volunteer Park Comty Ctr. 12050 W Sunrise Blvd. Plantation, FL ++ Contact: Joe Marshall, PO Box 22102, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33335-2102
PH: 954-802-4967.
email: magikj48@yahoo.com

December 28
Palm Beach Coin Show, American Polish Club, 4725 Lake Worth Road, Greenacres, FL Contact: Tony Swicer, PO Box 5823,Lake Worth, FL 33466

2015

January 4
Gold Coast Coin, Stamp, & Collectibles Show, Mardi Gras Casino, .841 N. Federal Hwy, Hallandale Beach, FL
Contact: Bill Sanders
PH: 305-389-5847
email: www.GoldCoastCoinClub.com

****January 4**
Maitland Coin and Currency Show, Maitland Civic Center, 641 S. Maitland Ave. Maitland, FL. Contact: Jason Lowery PH: 407-739-4817.
website: www.maitlandcoinshow.com

January 8-11
F.U.N. 60th Annual Convention. ORANGE COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER 9800 International Drive, Orlando, FL. West Concourse Hall D. Contact: Cindy Wibker, PO Box 471147, Lake Monroe, FL 32747-1147. PH: 407-321-8747. Fax: 407-321-5138
e-mail:Cwibker@aol.com
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January 17
Fort Myers Coin and Paper Money Show, Masonic Lodge, 10868 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers, 9-3.Contact: Jay Chamberlain, PO Box 62056, Ft. Myers, FL 33906, Ph: 239-297-8592.
email: jcflcoins@comcast.net

January 19
Fort Lauderdale Coin Club Coin & Stamp Show, Volunteer Park Comty Ctr. 12050 W Sunrise Blvd. Plantation, FL ++ Contact: Joe Marshall, PO Box 22102, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33335-2102
PH: 954-802-4967.
email: magikj48@yahoo.com

January 23-24
Treasure Coast Coin Club, Inc. Coin & Currency Show -Celebrating the 300th Anniversary of the 1715 Fleet-Vero Beach Community Center, 14th Ave & 23rd St, Vero Beach, FL. Contact: Scott Anderson, PH: 772-607-3321
email: sa13643@gmail.com
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January 25
Palm Beach Coin Show, American Polish Club, 4725 Lake Worth Road, Greenacres, FL Contact: Tony Swicer, PO Box 5823,Lake Worth, FL 33466

January 31 - February 1
Ocala Coin Club Coin Show,Top of the World Circle Square Cultural Center, 8395 SW 80th St. Ocala, FL Contact: Rich Selvar, PO Box 3091, Ocala, FL 34478-3091. PH: 352-748-5225.

****February 1**
Maitland Coin and Currency Show, Maitland Civic Center, 641 S. Maitland Ave. Maitland, FL. Contact: Jason Lowery PH: 407-739-4817.
website: www.maitlandcoinshow.com

****Commercial Show**

(continued on page 37)

Show Calendar

(continued from paage 36)

February 2
Gold Coast Coin, Stamp, & Collectibles Show, Mardi Gras Casino, .841 N. Federal Hwy, Hallandale Beach, FL
Contact: Bill Sanders
PH: 305-389-5847
email: www.GoldCoastCoinClub.com

February 6-7
Venice Coin and Currency Club Show. Venice United Church of Christ, 620 Shamrock Blvd, Venice, FL. Contact: Jeff Scalici. PH: 941-626-1128.
email:jeff.npcoins@gmail.com

February 7 (correction)
Annual Ridge Coin Club Coin Show, Sebring Elks Lodge,, 2618 Kenilworth Blvd., Sebring, FL 33870. Contact: Barry Radawiec PH: 863-382-8958 or 835-1253.
email: scubarry@yahoo.com

February 9
Fort Lauderdale Coin Club Coin & Stamp Show, Volunteer Park Comty Ctr. 12050 W Sunrise Blvd. Plantation, FL ++ Contact: Joe Marshall, PO Box 22102, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33335-2102
PH: 954-802-4967.
email: magikj48@yahoo.com

****February 13-15**
The Collectorama Coin & Currency Show. The Lakeland Center, 701 West Lime, Lakeland, FL ++ Contact: Ed Kuszmar, PO Box 4049, Boca Raton, FL 33429
PH: 561-392-8551
email: CollectoramaShow@aol.com
AD - page 37

February 21
West Hernando Coin Club Show. Knights of Columbus, 10470 Spring Hill Drive, Spring Hill, FL 34608. 9-3. Contact: Bruce PH: 352-584-3163. AD - page 50

February 22
Palm Beach Coin Show, American Polish Club, 4725 Lake Worth Road, Greenacres, FL Contact: Tony Swicer, PO Box 5823,Lake Worth, FL 33466

****March 1**
Maitland Coin and Currency Show, Maitland Civic Center, 641 S. Maitland Ave. Maitland, FL. Contact: Jason Lowery PH: 407-739-4817.
website: www.maitlandcoinshow.com

March 6-8
Tennessee State Numismatic Society Annual Coin Show, Camp Jordan Arena, Chattanooga, TN. Contact: Gayle Pike, 901-327-1703
email: pikegk@aol.com AD - page 42

March 26-29
Whitman's Baltimore Coin and Currency Convention. Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt St. Inner Harbor, Baltimore, MD. PH: 404-214-4373.
www.whitmanexpo.com AD - page 29

March 27-29
Central Florida Coin Club's Spring Coin & Money Show., VFW Post 10147, 519 S. Central Ave. Apopka, FL 32703.
AD - page 14

April 4
Brandon Coin Club Coin, Currency, and Stamp Show. Brandon Elks Lodge, 800 Centennial Dr. Brandon, FL. Contact: Mark Palermo. PH: 813-361-0740.
email: mpalermo1@tampabay.rr.com

April 11-12
Annual Azalea Festival Coin Show sponsored by the Lower Cape Fear Coin Club. NEW LOCATION!! Elk's Lodge, 5102 Oleander Drive, Wilmington, NC. Admission $1 donation. Contact: O.T. Thompson, 910-520-8405. PO Box 4744, Wilmington, NC 28406.
email: Uffda28411@yahoo.com

April 17-19
51st Anniversary Georgia Numismatic Association Coin & Currency Show, NW GA Trade & Convention Center, Dalton, GA, I-75at Exit 333. Contact: Chip Cutcliff PH: 770-639-0190.
email: chascoins06@yahoo.com
AD - page 9

June 6-7
Pensacola Numismatic Society Coin Club 40th Annual Coin & Collectibles Show, Pensacola Fairgournds Bldg. 1, 6655 W. Mobile Hwy, Pensacola, FL. Contact: Danny Hayes, PH: 850-206-3592.
email: hayesjr50@yahoo.com

July 9-11
9th SUMMERFUN Convention.
ORANGE COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER 9800 International Drive•West Hall A3, Orlando, FL. Contact: Cindy Wibker, PO Box 471147, Lake Monroe, FL 32747-1147. PH: 407-321-8747. PH: 407-321-8747; Fax: 407-321-5138
e-mail:Cwibker@aol.com AD - page 56

****Commercial Show**

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NOW IS THE TIME TO START PLANNING YOUR END OF YEAR TAX STRATEGIES
Is A Precious Metals IRA A Good Choice For You?

As we are approaching the time of year when investors should start considering any actions they may wish to take as part of their overall financial planning, this seems a good time to informally recap how you can take advantage of the Precious Metals IRA option.

A little background: In 1981, Congress arbitrarily changed the rules and decided "collectibles" were unacceptable for inclusion in IRAs and other self-directed retirement plans. The definition of collectibles coins and precious metals, fine art, gems, stamps, antiques, rugs, wine, and other items. ICTA did not exist at the time (the organization was formed in 1983), and the coin and precious metals industry had no real voice in Washington to either prevent this action or even educate the U.S. Congress.

In 1986 the American Eagle gold and silver coin programs began, and the legislation that created the Eagles included language stating that, for the purposes of Section 408(m) of the Internal Revenue Code (the section that deals with self-directed IRA plans), the term "collectible" did not include gold, silver, or (later) platinum Eagle coins. Therefore, American Eagles are allowed in self-directed IRAs, with no differentiation between proof and uncirculated.

ICTA was successful in having Congress approve legislation that expanded IRA-acceptable precious metals to include many more bullion gold, silver, platinum, and palladium products as part of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997. These other eligible precious-metals items are defined only by fineness; many "mainstream" (most popular and frequently traded) precious-metals bullion coin and bar products are acceptable if they meet the fineness requirement and any criteria specified by the company handling your IRA (these criteria can vary by company). The IRA trustees who handle such precious metals retirement accounts can provide you with a list of those items they will or will not accept for IRA purposes.

HOW TO INCLUDE PRECIOUS METALS IN YOUR IRA

The following includes some of the basic elements of these accounts. You'll find some of the information highly dependent on the policies and procedures of the company handling your IRA; now is the time to compare companies for the one that best fits your needs. (Please note that ICTA provides this information with the intent to assist you, but ICTA's staff cannot provide legal advice on the subject. For more specific information, we strongly recommend that you consult with your own legal counsel or professional tax advisor.)

1. The first step to including precious metals in your IRA is to set up your account with an "IRA trustee"—a company that handles IRA accounts for precious metals. If you don't do that properly, you can lose the tax benefits associated with an IRA. You must have the account set up and funded (with rollover and/or "new" IRA money) BEFORE you purchase any metals. It is important to note that you may not personally take physical delivery of precious metals products held in your IRA! The IRA trustee should arrange for the safekeeping of the metals to your satisfaction. We recommend you contact your favorite coin dealer for assistance in choosing a trustee for your precious metals IRA account. You should know in advance what specific procedures you will need to follow and what fees may apply for establishing the account.

(continued on page 39)

ICTA Update

(continued from page 38)

2. While there are the usual benefits to including any acceptable asset in a qualified IRA (or other self-directed retirement program), there are certain costs associated with such IRAs. There may be a flat annual fee (sometimes called an administration fee) as well as the annual storage charges. Fee structures vary by company and might include a per-transaction fee. You should evaluate all applicable charges to determine which company may best serve your needs.

3. Ask whether the IRA company or your dealer has any minimum dollar amount for an IRA trade. You will want to research in advance to see if your favorite dealer is willing to conduct bullion IRA transactions and whether there is any service charge for this type of trade. You have to follow the IRS's rules on acquiring precious metals coins or bars as well as when you liquidate all or part of your holdings.

Unlike a normal cash bullion purchase, in which you pay for and receive your merchandise immediately, IRA transactions must be handled according to IRS regulations and the IRA trustee's procedures. Sometimes there is a delay in payment for the dealer, since the trustee will want to ensure the merchandise has been received by the custodial facility before releasing the investor's funds for payment. Since the dealer's money may be tied up for some period of time until the funds are released, the dealer may levy a nominal IRA transaction fee to help offset this extra cost. Be sure to ask.

Sometimes IRA companies may release payment for the metals BEFORE the dealer ships to the designated safekeeping facility. It is likely they reserve this pre-funding accommodation to dealers with which the IRA company has an existing relationship. But normally payment is authorized only when receipt of the metals has been logged at the storage facility.

4. In addition to setting up an IRA account with "new" IRA money, investors may roll existing monies over from other IRA accounts. Usually the procedure is to issue an order to liquidate certain other assets held in an existing IRA. If you are using rollover money, you need to make sure you understand exactly what you need to do. It should be very simple—you will authorize the sale of the original IRA asset and direct that the proceeds of that sale to be sent to the company handling your precious metals IRA account. Be sure you understand the procedures for setting up the new account in order to have a smooth transition.

Once your IRA account is funded, you will be able to purchase the precious metals you want to include in your precious metal IRA account.

Dealers interested in conducting precious metals IRA transactions should contact at least one or two IRA companies for more information on policies and procedures. There is a lot of interest in these IRAs right now, and you want to be sure you can accommodate your customers' business quickly and easily. Likely your customers will have many questions, and it's just smart business to be ready to assist your clients.

For investors who want to own precious metals but do not have adequate funds outside of an IRA or other self-directed retirement plan, IRAs provide an excellent way to fulfill your personal investing strategy. Whether you're a dealer or an investor, doing your homework on the details of IRAs now helps ensure your transactions are easy and hassle-free.

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ICTA is supported solely by membership dues and donations. To join and/or learn more about the Industry Council for Tangible Assets, please visit our website — ictaonline.org.

Educational Seminars at FUN 2015

Randy Campbell - Educational Chairman

All seminars will be held in Room 224A
These are free and open to the public

All information is tentative

Thursday, January 8

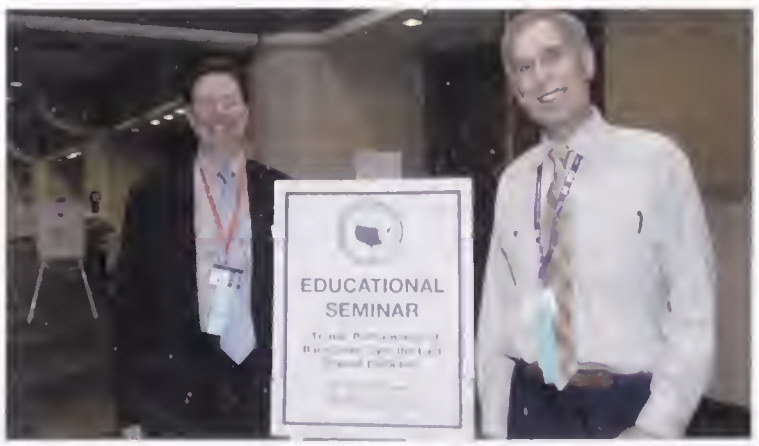
11:30 AM "The Loss of the 1715 Plate Fleet," by Ben Costello
12:30PM "Grading and Authenticating Mercury Dimes," by Bill Fivaz
1:30 PM "The Wonderful World of Foreign Coins," by Bob Hurst
2:30 PM "Grading 201; AU or BU, the Great Divide," by Ray Herz
3:30 PM "15 of My Favorite Coins for 2015," by Don Bonser
4:30 PM "A Sunken Ship is a Time Capsule: The 1715 Plate Fleet Wreck," by Peter Cowdrey

Friday, January 9

10:30 AM "12 Reasons Why Coin Grading is Difficult," by Skip Fazzari
11:30 AM "Looking Back at How the Top 10 Events of 2014 Will Shape Coin Collecting in 2015," by Steve Roach
12:30 PM "10 Forecasts for 2015 and 5 for the Next Generation," by Numismatic News editor Dave Harper
1:30 PM "The Impact of Gold and Silver Values on Rare Coin Prices," by Scott Travers and Maurice Rosen
2:45 PM "My Favorite VAMs for 2015," by John Roberts
3:45 PM "Annual VAM Thing," by the Society of Silver Dollar Collectors

Saturday, January 10

11:00 AM "Assembling an Affordable Short Set of Classic Buffalo Nickels," by Bart Bartanowicz, PhD.
12:00 Noon "What's Hot and What's Not in the Error-Variety Market," by Fred Weinberg and B.J. Neff
1:00 PM "Building a Silver Dollar Investment Portfolio; Which Coins Should You Choose?" by Al Johnbrier and Randy Campbell
2:00 PM "Review Quality Notes: Quality You Can Purchase Sight Unseen," by John Bremer and Vince Cavo
3:00 PM "My 10 Favorite Copper Coins of All Time," by Chuck Heck



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NAVIGATING FUN 2015

PARKING FEES & SHUTTLE BUSES

Driving instructions are posted on our website at www.funtopics.com, and include directions into the parking lot for the West Building. Turn off of International Drive onto either Exhibit Drive or Convention Way (between the Rosen Hotels and the West Building) to access the parking lot. Please note that the normal parking rate is $15/day, but FUN has negotiated a discounted rate of $10/day. Be sure to tell them at the parking gate entrance that you are attending the FUN convention and pay the reduced rate. When the parking lot behind the West Building is full, cars will be sent to the North-South Building parking lot on the other side of International Drive. Please don't walk to the convention, as it is quite a hike. FUN is running free shuttle bus service in a continuous 15-minute loop from both parking lots to the entrance of the show for your convenience. You can also catch the shuttle back to your car when you depart for the day.

If you park behind the West Building and prefer to walk, you can enter the back of the building behind Hall C, which is in the center of the building. Ride the escalator up to the second level, walk down the hallway alongside Hall C, then come back down to the first level via the escalator. Follow the signs to Hall D.

Tennessee State Numismatic Society
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March 6-8, 2015

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NAVIGATING FUN 2015

FUN SHOW LOCATION

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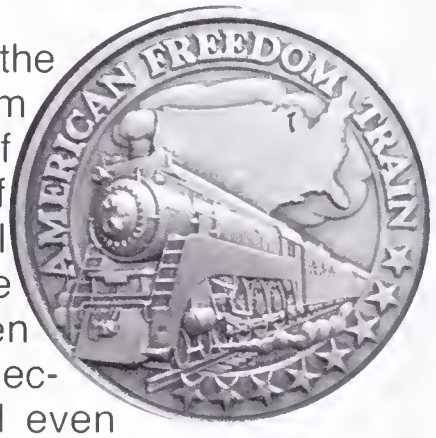
Souvenirs of America's Bicentennial Celebration: The Official 1975-1976 American Freedom Train Medal

By Steven M. Bieda

(FUN member and Recipient of the Charles B. Fine Literary Award in 2011 and 2013)

The American Freedom Train was described as a "highly sophisticated museum-on-wheels; a dazzling multi-media sound and light show; a superb display of priceless documents, artifacts, and memorabilia gathered from the National Archives and from leading museums and historical societies." The exhibits ranged from the Revolutionary era through the settling of the West and the exploration of space. It included artifacts from our technology, trade and science to American culture, sports, music, theater and the arts. Then President Gerald R. Ford, described it as a "rolling museum of American artifacts, using the railroad tracks that criss-cross our country and which, in their own way, are so much a part of our heritage, brought the story of America to the people in all parts of the land." When the American Freedom Train ended its two year journey in Miami, Florida on December 31, 1976, it had visited all 48 continental states and 138 cities. (In addition to Miami, it also visited Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Gainesville, Orlando, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, Lakeland and West Palm Beach). This article will examine the official medal produced to commemorate the 1975-1976 national tour of the American Freedom Train. The American Freedom Train Medal by Medallic Arts.

The American Freedom Train



The American Freedom Train toured the United States in 1975-1976 for the United States Bicentennial of Independence. This touring history museum included a vast array of material relating to this country's history. Examples of some of the material included Benjamin Franklin's draft of the Articles of Confederation, George Washington's copy of the Constitution, the original Louisiana Purchase, Judy Garland's dress from the Wizard of OZ, Joe Frazier's boxing trunks, the Dr. Martin Luther King's pulpit and robes, and even a moon rock from one of the Apollo missions. The train had an eclectic collection of more than 500 other documents, artifacts, films, memorabilia and even numismatic material, all relating to the American experience.

The train itself was twenty-five cars long and pulled by a magnificent old-time steam engine. The American Freedom Train had twelve display cars, ten that visitors would go abroad and pass through and two to hold large objects that would be viewed from the ground through huge "showcase" windows. One of these cars held a replica of the famed "Liberty Bell," another contained a lunar rover.

The American Freedom Train was sponsored by the non-profit American Freedom Train Foundation, and was recognized as an Official Bicentennial Project by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration. Admission was $2.00 for adults and $1.00 for individuals less than 18 years old or 65 and older. Visitors to the American Freedom Train would walk through the various cars, viewing the various exhibits before exiting.

The American Freedom Train visited more than 80 cities, and toured 48 states. There were a number of souvenir postcards, books, shirts, model trains and assorted souvenirs produced. One of the most durable and attractive souvenirs, was an official medal struck for the occasion, the official American Freedom Train medal.

The Official American Freedom Train Medal

This very handsome official medal struck by the Medallic Arts Company, at the time located in Danbury, Connecticut. The medal was designed by noted American Sculptor Marcel Jovine[1].

(Continued on page 45)

Souvenirs of America's Bicentennial Celebration: The Official 1975-1976 American Freedom Train Medal

By Steven M. Bieda

(FUN member and Recipient of the Charles B. Fine Literary Award in 2011 and 2013)

(continued from page 44)

The centerpiece of the design of the obverse of the medal depicts a full length depiction of a Revolutionary War soldier and Astronaut perfectly centered in the middle of the design. Both figures hold onto a common flagpole. The minuteman is superimposed on the original 13-Star Flag, which waves freely as if in a strong breeze. The Astronaut figure is superimposed over a 50-Star Flag. The 50-Star Flag jutes stiffly out from the pole, similar to the various American Flags planted by Astronauts from Apollo missions 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, and 17 on the moon. The legend "BICENTENNIAL JOURNEY" wraps around the upper periphery of the medal design. The designer, Marcel Jovine's, monogram appears just above the Astronaut's left (viewer's right) foot. According to the artist, neither the minuteman nor Astronaut was intended to represent any one specific historical person.

A ribbon runs across the bottom portion of the design, with "1776" appearing on the side with the soldier, and "1976" appearing on the side of the Astronaut. The figures both stand on a platform depicting the logo of the American Freedom Train. The logo consists of a stylized depiction of a train engine, with three stars in the body of the train, and three lines, reminiscent of elements of the American Flag, emanating from the body of the engine.

The reverse depicts a three-quarter view of the steam powered locomotive that pulled the American Freedom Train, a 425 ton Southern Pacific Daylight class engine. The depiction of the locomotive is super-imposed over a map of the continental United States. The inscription "AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN" appears over the upper periphery of the reverse design. Eight stars appear on the periphery under the train.

The medal was produced for sale to collectors in bronze, proof silver, antique silver, vermeil (gold-plated silver) and gold. All were struck in "medal alignment."

For most collectors, if they are at all familiar with any of the American Freedom Train medals, it is the 39 mm antique bronze version.

It is the most common version, and was only sold at various mobile locations where the American Freedom Train visited. The original issue price was $2.50. It was sold in a plastic bag with a card-board hanger. I remember my Dad buying one for my brother and myself (we both still have them) and when we visited the souvenir car of the American Freedom Train. This is the most commonly encountered medal, and examples, including those still in their original packaging, appear on eBay quite frequently.

In addition to the 39 mm bronze example, Medallic Arts produced a larger 63.5 mm high relief bronze medal with an antique finish that originally sold for $10.00. This medal was issued in a plain white cardboard box with two cotton inserts. The only inscription was on the inside of the box "Metallic Art Co." with "Danbury, Ct." underneath it. The larger bronze medal has edge-lettering "MEDALLIC ART CO. DANBURY CONN." and serial number. The serial number was also printed on the side of the box. Sales and mintage was limited to mail orders received by July 4, 1976. This medal is the secondly most encountered of the American Freedom Train medals, although not nearly as commonly encountered as the small 39 mm version.

The 63.5 mm bronze medal was also utilized as an "official gift" to city officials who worked conspicuously hard to welcome the American Freedom Train to their communities. An un-numbered medal was given along with a special 5" x 4" wood base. A plaque with the inscription "IN APPRECIATION OF YOUR SUPPORT" on one line, "AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN 1975/1976," below it was the inscription on the simple wooden base.

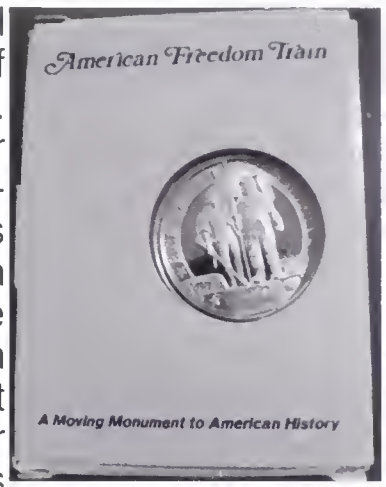
(continued on page 46)

Souvenirs of America's Bicentennial Celebration: The Official 1975-1976 American Freedom Train Medal

By Steven M. Bieda

(FUN member and Recipient of the Charles B. Fine Literary Award in 2011 and 2013)

(continued from page 45)



In addition to the two bronze medals, there were three silver versions produced for sale as well. The smallest was a 39 mm silver .999 version with frosted proof devices. It weighs 26.2 grams and is struck in lower relief (also called coin relief). This attractive medal was issued encapsulated in a small frosted Lucite holder (2 inch X 2 inch) and contained in a larger (3 inch by 4 inch) white cardboard display case, with color inscriptions. The display case has the inscriptions "American Freedom Train" with a Red, White and Blue American Freedom Train logo. Another inscription "A Moving Monument to American History." The reverse of the box has a circular cut-out for the medal. The inscription "American Freedom Train" is on the top of the box, with the inscription "A Moving Monument to American History," along the bottom. Like the smaller 1.5 inch diameter antique bronze version, this proof silver medal was only offered at the various train sites. The proof silver medal was originally issued at $25.00.

There were two larger silver medals issued as well. Both were only available for mail orders. One was a 63.5 mm version in .999 pure silver produced with an antique finish. The original issue price was $80.00, with a limited mintage of 5,000. Another silver medal of the same dimensions was issued in Vermeil (24 Kt. gold on .999 pure silver), originally issued at $100.00 with a limited mintage of 1,000.

These prices may not seem too high today, but bear in mind that during the 1975-1976 time period, silver ranged from a high of $5.25 an ounce, to a low of $3.83 an ounce.

Like the bronze medals, the silver medals have a smooth edge. The proof medal has the silver fineness, .999 fine silver, and the name of the mint engraved on the edge.

The larger 63.5 mm antique silver version was issued in a blue crushed velvet box. It has the inscription "MEDALLIC ART CO. DANBURY CT. .999 FINE SILVER" inscribed on the edge, along with a serial number. A pamphlet accompanied the medal.

A vermeil medal, also 63.5 mm, was issued in a similar blue velvet box. It has the inscription "MACO 24kt. G/P ON .999 Silver" engraved on the edge of the medal. It weighs 5.8 ounces and contains 5.28 troy ounces of .999 silver. The small silver proof medal is encountered infrequently on auction sites such as eBay. The larger antique silver and vermeil medals are very seldom encountered, and it is very likely that these heavy silver medals were melted during the various silver booms over the years.

Lastly, Medallic Arts sold an 18 kt. gold version of the medal. It measured 32 mm. The advertising brochures that were used to market this piece described the surfaces of the medal as "High Luster Finish," It was issued in a velvet blue gift box along with a certificate of authenticity. The advertising materials of the day indicated that it would be limited to a mintage of 500 and was only available by mail order. The gold medal is the rarest of the six American Freedom Train medals produced. When it was initially offered in 1975-6, private gold ownership had just become legal. The limitation on gold ownership having been repealed after President Gerald Ford signed a bill into law to "permit United States citizens to purchase, hold, sell, or otherwise deal with gold in the United States or abroad" with an Act of Congress codified in Public Law 93-373 which went into effect on December 31, 1974. The novelty of gold ownership at the time was expected to be a marketing advantage in itself. The gold medal was originally offered at $400.00. During the time that this medal was produced, gold ranged in price from a high of $185.25 (in 1975) an ounce to a low of $103.50 (in 1976) an ounce.

(continued on page 47)

Souvenirs of America's Bicentennial Celebration: The Official 1975-1976 American Freedom Train Medal

By Steven M. Bieda

(FUN member and Recipient of the Charles B. Fine Literary Award in 2011 and 2013)

(continued from page 46)

Reflecting its relative scarcity, the gold medal is not encountered too often, although numismatic firms specializing in medals occasionally will offer the medal. Probably reflecting a thin market for these medals, the gold medal's market value is closely related to the price of gold. In 2008, for example, Heritage Galleries sold one in its September 2008 Long Beach CA Tokens and Medals Signature Auction as Lot 228763 for 207.00.

The large silver and bronze medals, along with the gold medal, were only offered for sale directly from Medallic Arts. Postage and handling of the silver and gold medals were a $1.25, whereas postage and handling for the large bronze was .75 cents. The small antique bronze version of the medal and the silver proof were sold at the American Freedom Train souvenir car.

Collecting an entire set of this well-designed medal can be a challenging endeavor. The small bronze medal is by far the most frequently encountered medal, being the least expensive medal produced and most widely dispersed. This attractive medal was available at the train site as a visitor souvenir. Indeed, the availability of these historic medals directly corresponds to their original issue price, with the least expensive medals being the most readily available. It is very likely that the three silver medals, as well as the scarcer gold medal, experienced considerable melting during the bullion price booms of the late 70s- early 80s, and again during the more recent spikes in silver and gold prices. I still have and cherish my bronze medal from my visit to the American Freedom Train. Subsequent pieces for my collection I acquired on eBay or by pursuing dealer stocks of assorted medals.

It is possible that several "patterns" in different medals and finishes from those offered to the general public exist. For example, I have in my collection a small sized, low relief, antique silver medal (39mm) weighing 26.2 grams. This medal was no edge markings, and identical in color to the larger antique silver version. I have not seen any marketing information that would indicate that this medal was sold to the public, leading one to believe that this particular medal is a pattern, perhaps produced to show individuals with the American Freedom Train some production options. Medallic Arts, like other private mints, has produced patterns like this for other clients, thus it is not implausible that other variants of the official medal exist in other medals or finishes as well. The other rationale for a non-marketed version of the medal is for gifts for individuals closely associated with the project; unfortunately, however, there does not seem to be any paperwork to explain the existence of the 39 mm antique silver version of the American Freedom Train medal. My closing observation is that in my years of working to assemble a complete set of the American Freedom Train medal, I've only encountered the medal now currently in my collection.

Like many medals, the American Freedom Train medal doesn't have a heavy collector following. Collectors seeking a topical collection of USA Bicentennial, space program or trains generally seek the medal out for their collections. Similarly, for those collectors seeking the works of Marcel Jovine, the medal is an important acquisition as well. And of course, for those seeking a tangible remembrance of their visit to the American Freedom Train, the official medal of the American Freedom Train is an attractive, and beautiful acquisition in itself.

Selected Sources:
In Commemoration of The American Freedom Train; A Journey. An Adventure. An Inspiration. Advertising pamphlet, Medallic Art Company. 1975.

"All Aboard! For The American Freedom Train Medal," The Art Medallist, published by Medallic Art Company, Danbury, Connecticut, April 1975, page 3.
The Story of the 1975-1976 American Freedom Train, found on-line, December 26, 2013, at http://www.freedomtrain.org/american-freedom-train-m-medals-by-medallic-art-company.
Heritage Auction Company, September 2008.
Letter from Gerald Ford to Mr. Ross Rowland, January 3, 1977, The White House. Found on-line, December 26, 2013, at http://www.freedomtrain.org/images/memorabilia/american-freedom-train-m-president-ford.
Historical Gold prices: www.usagold.com/reference/prices/1975.html, and www.usagold.com/reference/prices/1976.html
Historical Silver prices: www.silverinstitute.org/site/silver-price/historical-prices/comex-spot-price.

ANA World's Fair of Money
Chicago, IL.
Aug. 5-9, 2014

By Tony Swicer

The ANA was in Rosemont, Il. ten minutes from O'Hare Airport at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center. The weather was 75 to 65 degrees and warmed up to 80 on Saturday. The show had 527 dealer booths along with the ANA Showcase, US Mint, Kids Zone, including 16 tables of world mints, Wizard supply, and the exhibit area. All the grading services were there. Both Heritage and Stacks-Bowers had auctions, with some overlapping of sessions. The hall had 17 aisles of dealers and the entrance was in the far left front of the hall. FUN's table was in the last aisle along with 20 other clubs.

The talk of the show was the release of the Mint's Gold Kennedy three quarter ounce half dollar selling for $1240 each. Tickets to get the coin were limited to one per person with proper documentation. 500 tickets were available per day, Tuesday thru Saturday for a total release at the ANA of 2500 coins. This did not happen. Thursday morning, the Mint announced that Thursday was the last day due to safety reasons for both customers and Mint employees at all locations nationally. A couple of ingenious coin dealers hired people to stand in line 12 to 14 hours to get the gold coin. One dealer bought 150 coins, the other 100 coins. The line to purchase the coin went out the front door, down to the end of the block and around the corner down a side street. The police put up barricades so that people in line would not walk into on coming traffic. They slept out there overnight in the line. I saw two of the coins offered on the bourse floor for $3200 and $3400 each. The first four coins purchased were sold to SilverTowne who then sold the first Kennedy, sold through dealer Kevin Lipton to a California collector for $100,000. Most of these coins are going to TV Marketers for say $3500 to $4000 each and then they will sell them on TV for $4500-$8000 to non-numismatists.

We sat down and talked with Q. David Bowers, Cliff Mishler, Dave Harper NN editor, Fred Schwan, Ray and Fran Lockwood, and others. We spoke with Coin World & Panda America about possible promotions for the January FUN show. We picked up an unusually high number of paid bourse apps for the January show and more than usual FUN memberships.

I arrived on Wednesday and Cindy and Bob got there on Friday and helped PNG and ANA set up. Cindy had a Women in Numastics meeting and judged exhibits. Bob gave a program on the "Treasures of the 1715 Spanish Fleet:. I lost my ribbons that say, "Life Member, Glen Smedley award, etc." I went to registration and Kim Kiick was there. I told her the problem and she said, "Come on back here" where I picked out the ribbons I needed. Thursday morning wa the Numismatic News Ambassador Awards breakfast. Six new ambassadors were inducted. At the end of the meeting, Cliff Mishler announced that the program was ending after 40 years and about 400 ambassadors. We the ambassadors talked later and agreed that we will keep the program alive. Saturday morning was the ANA District Representatives meeting. We had about 20 reps there and I was honored to receive the ANA's "Outstanding District Representative of the Year".

WEST HERNANDO COIN CLUB

COIN SHOW

November 22, 2014

Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION

Free Hourly DOOR PRIZES

NEW LOCATION ! ! !

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10470 Spring Hill Drive
Spring Hill, FL 34608
FREE PARKING

Coins Bought, Sold, Appraised
Gold & Silver
U.S. & Foreign

Table and show info: John 352-232-1200 or Bruce 352-584-3163

Early Bird Dealer fee $10.00 ••• 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.
STAMPS & COLLLECTIBLES
45 + TABLES
FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE

West Hernando Coin Club meets 2nd Monday of each month at The Heather Community Center off Hwy 19, Weeki Wachee(9100 Nakoma Way) at 7p.m. (doors open a 6 p.m.)

Club Notes

Tony Swicer • FUN Club Liaison/President
PO Box 5823. ••• Lake Worth, Fl 33466
561-964-8180, M-F, 9-5
email: swicer@comcast.net
ANA Glenn Smedley Award winner 2007
2007 NLG Award Winner for Best Column

Those clubs that are taking a FUN-sponsored bus to the January FUN show need to submit your FUN bus application to Cindy Wibker by December 1st deadline. The FUN Coin Club Get Together will be Saturday January 10th at noon. Please RSVP to me so that we know how much food to have. (Two representatives per coin club.) Exhibit applications for the January FUN show are due in to Bob Russell by December 1st, 2014.

Ancient City Coin Club- had 37 at their last meeting. Ray Herz gave a program on Art Medals called, "Summary of Art Medals, 450 BC to 21st Century," followed by the auction.

Brandon Coin Club- had 42 members at their last meeting, the November 1st coin show went well, and they had a raffle and auction at the meeting.

Casselberry Coin Club- had a "Big Numismatic Rummage Sale" for the benefit of the club. They had a raffle, door prizes, and the auction.

Central Florida Coin Club- had their Fall coin show with 120+ dealer tables.

Ft. Lauderdale Coin Club- had a talk by Stan Klein on "Chief Thundercloud," followed by the auction.

Ft. Walton Beach Coin Club- had 57 members at their last meeting. The clubs next coin show is October 18 &19th at the NW Florida Fairgrounds. Allen Wright gave a program on "Fantasy Overstrike Coins." An auction followed.

Gold Coast Coin Club- had ANA DVD's on "Introduction to Numismatics" and "Grading Coins Today," both for the ANA Diploma program.

Greater Daytona Coin Club- meeting was September 9th with Bob Hawes showing "World Currency."

Greater Jacksonville Coin Club- had Gary Sass give a program on, "Discovering Jacksonville's Monetary History." The YN program was on "Roman Coins" by Robert Levan.The auction followed.

North Lake Coin & Currency Club- met September 10th, with new club President Larry Quitter presenting new ideas for the club. There was a social time, a 50/50 drawing, a raffle, and the auction.

Greater Ocala Coin Club- had 26 members at their club picnic. Club shirts are in. Bob Hawes spoke on "Foreign Currency." They had a 50/50 drawing followed by the auction.

Palm Beach Coin Club- had over 90 members at their Free Food Night. FUN VP Bob Hurst gave a power point presentation of the "1715 Spanish Treasure Fleet" and invited everyone to come see the treasure exhibit at FUN in January.

Sarasota Coin Club- had 32 members attend their last meeting. 50th anniversary club medals are still available. The next coin show is October 23-26th. A 50-lot auction followed.

South Brevard Coin Club- had several show-n-tells. John Kane spoke on "Cleaning Coins."

Tampa Bay Coin Club- had a show and tell, a program on "Confederate Currency" by Tom Harden, a program on "US Gold Dollars, 1849-1889" by Bill Jones, and a raffle, followed by the auction.

Treasure Coast Coin Club- had a "Show N Tell Night". The auction followed.

Venice Coin Club- had 23 at their last meeting. Phill Kolbe made the membership "Guess the Mystery Country." Bart Bartanowicz gave a program on "World Crown- Size Coins," followed by the auction.

(continued on page 50)

Club Notes

(continued from page 49)

West Hernando Coin Club- coin show is November 22nd. The meeting featured a program, door prizes, a raffle, and the auction.

Tony

Treasure Coast Coin Club, Inc.

Come Celebrate the
300th Anniversary of the 1715 Fleet

COIN & CURRENCY SHOW

JANUARY 23-24, 2015

VERO BEACH COMMUNITY CENTER

14th Ave. & 23rd St., Vero Beach, Florida

FREE ADMISSION
SAT 10 AM To 5 PM
SUN 10 AM To 3 PM
Early Bird 9 AM $20.00

DIRECTIONS:
I-95, Exit 147 East on SR 60
7.2 miles to 14th Ave.
Left 3 blocks
Community Center on right

Bourse Chairman: Scott Anderson **email: sa13643@gmail.com**
www.tccoinclub.com

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Coin Crazy?

By Michael S. Fey, Ph.D.

"What coin is that?" said the collector to the dealer as he peered through the glass in the dealer's case.

"Why it's an 1888-O Morgan silver dollar," replied the dealer.

"Can I see it?" said the collector.

"How much do you want for it?" the collector asked.

The dealer replied, "Well, it's a nice mint state 63. How about $65?"

Without delay, the collector proceeded to peel off three $20's and a $5, and the deal was consummated.

Now, the dealer was happy because he paid $50 for the coin last week, and figured he made a quick $15, or about a 30% return on his investment.

The collector was a knowledgeable VAM specialist and was totally ecstatic. He recognized the coin as an 1888-O doubled die VAM 4, commonly known as the "Hotlips." An MS 60 PL sold several years ago for more than $25,000 in auction.

Before leaving, the VAM specialist asked the dealer if he knew about varieties on coins. The dealer responded, "Yes, but I don't have the time to look up varieties nor do I care about varieties."

This is a fictitious story, but time and again I hear the same comments from dealers. They just don't have the time, or just don't care about coin varieties.

I have to assume that coin or paper money dealers get into the business to make money. Unfortunately, there's an awful lot to know about U.S. coins, foreign coins, paper money, tokens, medals, and exonumia, not to mention jewelry, stamps and baseball cards and other things that walk through the door.

Several decades ago, it was difficult to get information in a timely manner. Except for large cents and perhaps Bust halves, books on varieties were just not readily available.

However, today books, articles and the internet provide a wealth of information at nearly everyone's fingertips on varieties of almost every type of numismatic item along with values of almost anything. It's just a matter of buying the books, reading them, or performing online searches. Or, one can call a specialist and get help.

Every coin is a variety, albeit some more normal than others. Some are common varieties, some are rare, but in general, the more interesting the variety feature, the more demand, and consequently the higher value that variety will elicit.

One day, the "Locket Copy" of a U.S. 24 cent Inverted Jenny stamp found its way to me. Although I am not a stamp dealer, do you think it was worth my doing a little research to find out the value of this stamp variety? I learned that it was valued in the stamp industry nearly as much as an 1804 silver dollar is to the coin industry.

My point is that every professional dealer and serious collector should take the time to learn as much as he/she can about their hobby. It really pays!

Knowledge is King!

Michael S. Fey, Ph.D.
Co-author, The Top 100 Morgan Dollar Varieties: The VAM Keys
http://www.rcicoins.com

F.U.N. Member Clubs

Tony Swicer • FUN Club Liaison
PO Box 5823. ••• Lake Worth, Fl 33466
email: swicer@comcast.net

American Israel Numismatic Assoc. #19615
Donna Simms, Treasurer, PO Box 20255, Fountain Hills, AZ 85269.
Dancinazdonna@gmail.com

Ancient City Coin Club #3893
PO Box 814, St Augustine, FL 32085-0814
Denny's Restaurant SR16 & I-95.St. Augustine, FL.
accc.anaclubs.org/index.html
7:00 PM, 3rd Monday

Barber Coin Collectors' Society #19608
% Eileen Ribar, 2053 Edith Place, Merrick, NY 11566
www.BarberCoins.org

Blue Ridge Numismatic Association LM - 686
Contact: BRNA, P O Box 56156, Virginia Beach, VA 23456 (www.brna.org)
Bourse: Blenda Brush PH: 864-617-3378
JBrush2@gmail.com
Annual meeting in August at Dalton GA

Brandon Coin Club, Inc #20799
Contact: Mark Palermo, Pres. PH: 813-361-0740. Brandon Elk's Club, 800 Centennial Lodge Dr., Brandon.
7:00 PM - 3rd Tuesday

Bust Half Nut Club #14074
Contact: Stephen Herman, 2817 S. Jay St., Denver, CO 80227-3801.
ANA annual and regional meetings

Bust Quarter Collectors Society #19148
9301 Park West Blvd.
Knoxville, TN 37923

Casselberry Coin Club #24722
259 Live Oaks Blvd. Casselberry, FL 32707-3829.
Meets 1st Tuesday 7:00PM at 806 Mark David Blvd, Casselberry

Central Florida Coin Club LM - 568
Contact: PO Box 568061, Orlando, FL 32856. Senior Citizen's Center ,Corner of Marks St & Magnolia Ave
7.15 PM - 2nd & 4th Wednesday

Central States Numismatic Society LM - 827
PO Box 841
Logansport, IN 46947

Clearwater Coin Club LM - 395
PO Box 4032, Clearwater, FL 33758
American Legion Post #7 1760 Turner St., Clearwater, FL Doors open at 6pm
7.00 PM - 2nd & 4th Tuesday
http://www.clearwatercoinclub.50megs.com/

Coin Club of Pasco County #13860
PO Box 1012, Port Richey, FL 34668.
Meetings: 2nd Thurs 7PM. Regency Park Civic Association, 10240 Regency Park Blvd., Port Richey, FL 34668
Http://pascocoinclub.50megs.com

Colonial Coin Collectors Club #24673
Jim Rosen, President.
9 Seminole Way, Bloomfield, CT.06002.
www.colonialcoins.org.
Annual meetings and Regional meeting.

CONECA-Combined Organization of Numismatic Error Collectors of America #16025
Mark Lighterman, 5224 West SR 46 #408, Sanford, FL 32771.
email: mlighter@bellsouth.net
www.conecaonline.org

Cuban Numismatic Association #19059
Contact: President: Emilio M. Ortiz,
emo.cna.bod@gmail.com
www.cubannumis.com

Currency Club of Long Island #19551
PO Box 1270, Massapequa, NY 11758
Contact: John Musarra, PH: 516-314-0802

Early American Coppers LM - 587
EAC, PO Box 2462 Heath OH 43056.
Web site: eacs.org.
Annual conventions, regional meetings

The Elongated Collectors (TEC) #25252
PO Box 1885, Tehachapi, CA 93581-1885

Error & Variety Ready Reference #24563
website: http://error-ref.com/
Contact person:Jeff Ylitalo
email: jylitalo@yahoo.com

Florida Casino Chips & Gaming Tokens Collectors Club #19503
c/o Mark Lighterman 5224 West SR 46 #40, Sanford, FL 32771

FloridaToken Society LM - 560
Contact: Pat Hynds, Sec/Treas, 4746 South Atlantic #2, Ponce Inlet, FL 32127-7182
WebSite: http:www.steveratliff.com./fts/
Email: Steve@Ratliff.com
Meets 4 times yearly

Fly-In Club - Flying Eagle & Indian Cents #19604
PO Box 559, Sandwich, IL 60548
www.fly-inclub.org

Fort Lauderdale Coin Club LM - 726
PO Box 15604, Plantation, FL 33318 - Volunteer Park Community Ctr., 12050 W. Sunrise Blvd., Plantation, FL.
7 15 PM - 2nd & 4th Thursday
www.ftlauderdalecoinclub.com

Fort Myers/Cape Coral Coin Club #4361
Contact: PO Box 152953, Cape Coral, FL 33915-2953; contact person: Gary Lewis 239-699-7719, meeting place: 3601 Riverside Drive. Ft. Myers, FL 33901
7:00 PM - 3rd Thursday
email: *gelewis@aol.com*

Fort Walton Beach Coin Club #5696
Meeting Place: Joe & Eddies Restaurant, 400 N. Elgin Pkwy,
6:30 PM - 2ndT hursday
email: fwbcoinclub@gmail.com
www.fortwaltonbeachcoinclub.com

Georgia Numismatic Association LM -752
Secretary - Ron Wichman at:
rlwichman@bellsouth.net 707-394-4103
PO Box 76161, Atlanta, GA 30358-1161
website: www.gamoney.org

Gold Coast Coin Club #19549
%Bill Sanders 20415 NE 10th Ct. N. Miami, FL 33179
www.billscoins@att.net

Greater Daytona Beach Coin Club #2850
PO Box 214005, South Daytona , FL 32121-4005 PH: 386-305-3536 - United Presbyterian Church, 730 Beville Rd. Daytona Beach, FL
bobcoin@earthlink.net
7:00 PM - 2nd Tuesday

GreaterJacksonvilleCoinClub LM - 861
PO Box 48322, Jacksonville, FL 32247
PH: 904-733-8040 - NE Florida Safety Council, 1725 Art Museum Dr. Jacksonville, FL 32207
htttp://gjcc.anaclubs.org/
7:00 PM - 2nd Monday

ICTA #12491
Contact:Kathy J. McFadden, PO Box 3253 Annapolis, MD 212403
PH: 410-626-7005 - FAX:410-626-7007
Summer @ ANA -- Winter @ FUN

International Association of Silver Art Collectors #12280
Contact: Nancy Yee, President. PO Box 28415, Seattle, WA 98118-8415.
Annual meeting

International Bank Note Society #21896
Contact: Roger Urce, PO Box 289, St. James, NY 11780.
Email: us-secretary@ibns.biz

(continued on page 53)

F.U.N. Member Clubs

Fun Member Clubs
(continued from page 52)

John Reich Colletors Soc. #24704
Contact: David Perkins, Treasurer
5283 Mineral Lane
Centennial, CO 80122-4016
Annual Meeting: August ANA
Regional Mtg: FUN, EAC, Nov. Baltimore

LC Swain Coin Cub #25226
5332 Lake Worth Rd. Greenacres, FL 33463. Contact: Daniel k. Pecoraro at Daniel.Pecoraro@Palmbeachschools.org

Liberty Seated Collectors Club #23528
Leonard Augsburger, Sec/Tres
PO Box 6114
Vernon Hills, IL. 60061

Lincoln Cent Resource #25225
c/o Peter Lucik
PO Box 121
Rutherford, NJ 07070
website: www.linconcentresource.net

Love Token Society #12856
Contact: Sid Gale, P O Box 2351 Denham Springs, LA 70727 - PH: 225-664-0718
www.lovetokensociety.com
email: sidgale@cox.net
Annual meeting ANA - local meeting FUN

MADDIECLASHES.com #23958
c/o Mike Diamond, PO Box 6351, Rock Island, IL 61204.
email: Mdia1@aol.com

Madison County Coin Club #25233
Thomas W. Davison, MCCC, PO Box 2103, Madison, AL 35758.
Sr. Senior Center, 2200 Drave Ave SW, Huntsville, AL 35640. 4th Tuesday each Month except May and Dec. *website: http:/mccc.anaclubs.org/*

Manatee Coin Club LM-801
Contact: Fred Vandergriff, 673 Cortez Plaza, Bradenton, FL 34207. 941-756-0186. Meeting place: Christian Reformed Church, 4208 26th St. W. Bradenton
7PM - 3rd Tuesday.

Maryland State Numismatic Assoc. LM - 899
PO Box 13504 Silver Spring, MD 20911-3504.
Annual Meeting: Whitman Expo-Baltimore
website: *www.mdstatenumisassn.org.*

Metropolitan Coin Club of Atlanta #17596
PO Box 76090, Atlanta, GA 30358-1090
770-394-4103 - Ronald Wichman, Treas
email: rlwichman@bellsouth.net
website: www.mccatl.org

Missouri Numismatic Society #21821
PO Box 410652, St. Louis, Mo 63141-0652. Creve Coeur American Legion, 934 E. Rue de la Banque. St. Louis, Mo. 4th Wednesday, except November.
info@missourinumismaticsociety.org.

National Silver Dollar Roundtable #8573
PO Box 25, Broken Arrow, OK 74013-0025. John Highfill PH: 918-254-8931
email: oklahomacoin@cox.net

North Carolina Numismatic Assoc, Inc. #21129
PO Box 147, Drexel, NC 28619-0147
PH: 704-209-3034

North Lake Coin and Currency Club #21483
c/o Don Pitcher, 352-245-5680.
Wildwood Community Center, 6500 Powell Rd (CR139), Wildwood, FL 34785email: northlkccc@centurylink.net
6PM - 9PM- 2nd Wednesday Monthly

Numismatic Bibliomania Society #16137
Contact: David M. Sundman, Sec/Tres, PO Box 82, Littleton, NH 03561
Website: http://www.coinsbooks.org./
Meet at: ANA and FUN

The Greater Ocala Coin Club #2948
Contact: Rich Selvar, PO Box 3091, Ocala, FL 34478-3091 - PH: 352-748-5225. Motel 6 exit 354 on I-75 and hwy 27.
6:30PM - 4th Tuesday

Original Hobo Nickel Society, Inc #13367
Contact: Becky Jirka, Secretary, 5111 Illinois Avenue, Lisle, IL 60532-2015
email: beckyjiohns@yahoo.com
Annual meeting FUN

Palm Beach Coin Club LM - 875
Contact: Tony Swicer, PO Box 5823, Lake Worth, FL 33466 - PH: 561-964-8180 (M-F 9-5) American Polish Club, 4725 Lake Worth Road, Greenacares, F 33463.
7:00 PM - 2nd & 4th Wednesday
email: swicer@comcast.net

Pensacola Numismatic Society, Inc #14539
Contact: http://www.pensacolanumismat-icsociety.20m.com Sonny's Restaraunt on Navy Blvd.. Pensacola
6:30 PM-3rd Thursday
email: pensacolacoin@att.net

Pennsylvania Association of Numismatics (PAN) #25317
1985 Lincoln Way Suite 23 #225
White Oak, Pa 15131

Red Rose Coin Club #21891
PO Box 7212
Lancaster, PA 17604-7212
Phone: 717-872-4425

Ridge Coin Club of Sebring #600
Box 1584 Tanglewood, Sebring, FL 33872
Contact: VP-Barry Radawiec, 863-382-8958

Saint Louis Numismatic Assn. #22092
c/o: Mike Orlando, PO Box 1102, St. Louis, Mo. 63074.

Saint Petersburg Coin Club LM - 376
c/o Robert Wiley. 727-580-4108,3603 50 Ave N St Petersburg, FL 33714. St Petersburg Community Church, 4501 30th Ave. North.
600 PM - 2nd Monday
email: Landjhester@yahoo.com

Sarasota Coin Club LM-795
c/o David Klein, 640 S. Washington Blvd. Suite 100, Sarasota, FL 34236-7130
Waldemere Fire Station Waldemere St.
7PM - 3rd Monday
email: tskidmore10@comcast.net

Silver Sands Coin Club #3829
PO Box 543, Lynn Haven, FL 32444
Palo Also Church of Christ, Hwy 231, Panama City, FL Contact: Anthony Bedell.
email: abedell3@comcast.net
7:00 PM - 3rd Tuesday Monthly

Society of Paper Money Collectors #19469
PO Box 24056, Winston-Salem, NC 27114.

Society of Silver Dollar Collectors #23515
c/o Mike Andrew, 680 Grackle Dr., Casselberry, FL 32707

South Brevard Coin Club #6773
The Peace Lutheran Church, 1801 Port Malabar Blvd. NE, Palm Bay, FL. Contact: Tim Janecke, 2145 Golf Isle Dr. #1223, Melbourne, FL 32935.
7 pm - 1st Wednesday.
SouthBrevardCoinClub@gmail.com

Southern Gold Society #17209
c/o David Crenshaw, P O Box 237, Dacula, GA 30019-0004.
Quarterly Meetings

Souvenir Card Collectors Society #12996
c/o Arthur S. Patrick, 2729 Cloudcroft Dr. Apopka, FL 32703, PH: 407-889-0528.
Spatrick3@cfl.rr.com

Sunken Treasure Literature Club #20113
Contact: David Crooks, PO Box 166
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514
email: dcrooks@dcrooks.com

Tallahassee Numismatic Club #25070
Contact: Hemanth Vasanthaiah,President. 850-322-4647.
Meetings: 4th Tuesday. Galleries of Grace Estate Buyers. Governors Square Mall, Tallahassee.
email: hemanth.vasanthaiah@gmail.com

Tampa Bay Coin Club #815
Forest Hills Park, 724 W 109th Ave.
Contact:Joseph Crespo. PO Box 1035. Land O'Lakes, Fl 34639. PH: 813-420-6460
tbcc1955@aol.com
Meetings: Third Tuesday 6:45PM.
www.site.tampabaycoincub.org

(continued on page 54)

F.U.N. Member Clubs

Fun Member Clubs
(continued from page 53)

Tennessee State Numismatic Society LM - 802
Bourse: Gayle Pike, 901-327-1703
Box 11705, Memphis, TN 38111
email: pikegk@acl.com; website:www.tsns.org
Annual meeting: March show

The 1715 Fleet Society #24062
Ben Costello, 505 Washington Trust Building, Washington, PA 15301
email: 1715fleetsociety@gmail.com

The Elongated Collectors (TEC) #25252
PO Box 1885 Tehachapi, CA 93581-1885

Titusville Coin Club #14020
Harry Gieseler - 321-269-3206. Indian River Civic Center. 4220 S. Hopkins, Titusville, FL
7:30 PM - 3rd Tuesday

TRAILDIES.com #23959
c/o Bob Piazzt
1570 Meadowbrook CT.
Niceville, FL 32578
email: mustbebob1@gmail.com

Treasure Coast Coin Club, Inc #2896
PO Box 6070, Vero Beach, FL 32961-6070
Bldg. Y Room 102, In Fort Pierce at the Indian River State College
7:00 PM - 2nd Wednesday

Venice Coin & Currency Club #23301
PO Box 1083, Venice, FL 32484. Venice City Hall, 401 W. Venice Ave, Venice, FL
7:00PM - 4th Monday

Virginia Numismatic Association (VNA) #25332
PO 16833 Chesapeake, VA 23328

WWW.CUDS-ON-COINS.COM #25622
c/o Robert Neff, 321 Kingslake Dr. Debary, FL 32713. 386-837-2215
emaill: *ERRORREF@aol.com*

West Hernando Coin Club #21199
9100 Nakoma Way, Weeki Wachee, FL
Bruce Schneider: 352-584-3163
Heather Community Center off Hwy 19
7PM - Second Monday
www.westhernandocoinclub.com

Women in Numismatics #13191
Contact: Cindy Wibker, PO Box 47147, Lake Monroe, FL 32747-7147. PH: 407-321-8747.
Meet at: FUN, CSNS, ANA

Happy Anniversary

During the October 8, meeting of the North Lake Coin & Currency Club, a cake was enjoyed by the membership celebrating the 6th anniversary of their club.

Editors note If your club has an anniversary or something you want to share with fellow FUN members, send us your photos and story Editor, PO Box 5202, Lakeland, FL 33807-5202

NATIONAL SILVER DOLLAR ROUNDTABLE™

www.NationalSilverDollarRoundtable.org • Founded November 12, 1982

THE SILVER DOLLAR SPECIALISTS. We are proud to list the following: Silver Dollar dealers as members in good standing with the National Silver Dollar Roundtable.™ Each has a reputation throughout the numismatic industry for honesty, integrity and knowledge of silver dollars.

N.S.D.R.™ serves the Silver Dollar collector • ONE OF THE NATION'S LARGEST NUMISMATIC DEALER ORGANIZATIONS

The National Silver Dollar Roundtable, a non-profit educational organization, invites and welcomes to membership all worthy persons eighteen years of age and older.

The National Silver Dollar Roundtable is dedicated to promoting United States silver dollars. The objective of the organization is to advance the knowledge of numismatics, especially for U.S. silver dollars, along educational, historical and scientific lines. NSDR assists in bringing about cooperation among all persons interested in collecting, buying, selling, grading, exhibiting and preserving U.S. silver dollars, through educational forums, social meetings, written articles, newsletters and other publications of interest. Our educational programs have, through the years, featured the most respected names in numismatics.

The National Silver Dollar Roundtable publishes a Journal annually for all regular, and associate members. Copies may be obtained by either joining the NSDR or by placing a subscription c/o the NSDR secretary, **Marlene Highfill.**

Silver dollars are the most popular coin collected today. There are many dates, types, VAMs and other varieties to collect & enjoy. Collectors often need numismatic help when trying to accumulate a collection and/or portfolio. Collecting Silver Dollars may be very complicated and you may need to consult a dealer. There are thousands of coin dealers in the U.S. When you see a regular doctor, he may need to send you to see a "specialist." The same goes for Silver Dollars. That is where the National Silver Dollar Roundtable (NSDR) comes in. When it comes to Silver Dollars, you really do need a "specialist". The following dealers have been very carefully selected and approved by the NSDR Board of Governors. The National Silver Dollar Roundtable has recently celebrated its 28th Anniversary. Below is a complete list of current NSDR members. We are proud of our members and recommend them all to you. Remember, when it comes to collecting Silver Dollars, don't just call any coin dealer, consult a **"NSDR SILVER DOLLAR SPECIALIST!"**

OFFICERS: John W. Highfill - President Selby Ungar - Vice President Marlene M. Highfill - Secretary Donald H. Ketterling - Treasurer

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Gary Adkins Assoc., Inc.

Adkins, Justin *LM-161
Eagle Hill Coins

Adkins, Tony *LM-56
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Avena Coin Company

Barna, Alex J. *LM-41
Numismatics of Distinction, Ltd.

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Curran, Michael *LM-92
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Duncan, Dan *LM-151
Pinnacle Rarities, Inc.

Duncan, Kenny *LM-70
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Drzewuckl, Ron *LM-78

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Faraone, Mike *LM-77
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Fogelman, Louie *LM-22
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Foster, Coleman *LM-40
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VAMS & More

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Miller's Mint

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Wayne Miller

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Oxman, Jeff *LM-106
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The Numismatic Emporium

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Northern Nevada Coin

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NSDR Past Presidents: Joe Buzanowski, Dean Tavenner, John Highfill, Leon Hendrickson, Al Johnbrier, Randy Campbell, Mike Faraone, Jeff Oxman

N.S.D.R. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

1989 Leon Hendrickson, Winchester, IN
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2007 John and Sandy Gulde, Berryville, VA
2008 Bill Fivaz, Dunwoody, GA
2009 Marlene M. Highfill, Broken Arrow, Ok
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2011 John W. Dannreuther, Memphis, TN
2012 Donald H. Kagin, Tiburon, CA

NSDR President: John W. Highfill
P. O. Box 25, Broken Arrow, OK 74013-0025
918-254-8931 • 918-249-1792 Fax

NSDR Treasurer: Don Ketterling
3835-R East Thousand Oaks Blvd., Ste. #136,
Westlake Village, CA 91362
805-418-7455 Office/Fax • 818-632-2353 Mobile

NSDR Secretary: Marlene M. Highfill
P. O. Box 25, Broken Arrow, OK 74013-0025
918-254-8931 • 918-249-1792 Fax

9th Annual SUMMER F.U.N. SHOW

July 9 - 11, 2015

Orange County Convention Center
9800 International Drive • Hall WA3
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Free Admission
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Saturday 10:00 am - 5:30 pm

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Check our website
you will find hotel information
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1-407-833-8938
Weekdays 8:30AM-5:30PM EST
FAX: 1-407-264-8801

reservations@funshowhotels.com

NON-COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

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BOURSE INFORMATION

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e-mail:Cwibker@aol.com

FUTURE SUMMER SHOWS: 10th annual Summer FUN - July 7-9, 2016 ••
11th Annual Summer FUN - July 6-8, 2017

FLORIDA UNITED NUMISMATISTS

FUN Show January 08-11, 2015

Orlando, FL | Orange County Convention Center
Located in Hall WD

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

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Email reservations@funshowhotels.com

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phone_____ fax_____

email_____

Credit card to guarantee ☐ American Express ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Other

account #_____

exp. date_____

authorized signature_____

cardholder's name_____

Top three hotel choices (in order of preference)
Choices: Hyatt, Rosen Plaza and Hyatt Regency

1st_____

2nd_____

3rd_____

Check-in date _____ **Check-out date** _____

Room type
(Suites may be available upon request)

Number of adults to occupy room _____

Number of beds requested _____

Additional occupants
(Maximum of four per room)

name _____

name _____

HOTEL INFORMATION

Hyatt Regency Hotel - **$204.00**
(Formerly the Peabody Orlando)
- Plus resort fee of $9 and tax, per room, per night.
- Walking Distance; Across from Hall WD

Rosen Centre Hotel - **$125.00**
- Free Self Parking - Only through our hotel bookings
- Walking Distance; Adjacent to Hall WD

Rosen Plaza Hotel - **$119.00**
- Free Self Parking - Only through our hotel bookings
- Walking Distance; Adjacent to Hall WD

Rosen Inn at Pointe Orlando - **$69.00**
- Free Parking
- 1 mile from hall, adjacent to Rosen Plaza

To take advantage of the special FUN Show rate, be sure to book by December 15, 2014.

ROOM RATES/TAXES - All rates are per room night and are subject to a 13.5% tax (may be more due to hotel's proximity to the convention center). Rates are Single/Double. Some hotels may charge additional fees for rooms with more than two occupants. The hotels will assign specific room types upon check in, based upon availability.

DEPOSITS - All hotels require a credit card guarantee for each reservation request. Requests received without a credit card guarantee or check deposit will be returned. Please fill out the credit card information entirely.

CONFIRMATIONS - The FUN Show Call Center will send a confirmation, please review it carefully for accuracy.

CHANGES/CANCELLATIONS - All changes and cancellations should be made through the FUN Show Call Center through December 30, 2014. Cancellations must be received before December 30th or one night room and tax charges will prevail. Please call your hotel directly for changes and cancellations *after* December 30, 2014 only.

F.U.N.
Awards two scholarships to ANA Summer seminars

2016 Adult Scholarship Program

This program is to assist adult(s) to attend the Annual ANA Summer Seminar with dormitory rooming and meal plan, tuition, and coach transportation. We hope the intent of the scholarship matches your expectation. Below we outline the qualification process and the guidelines the F.U.N. Board of Directors have approved. GOOD LUCK!!!

2014 Winner - Bill Sanders

Eligibility:

1) Membership in F.U.N. for at least one year before applying for scholarship.
2) Membership in the American Numismatic Association.
3) Demonstrated interest and ability in sharing knowledge through one or more of the following:
   a) Giving presentations to non-numismatic entities such as schools, community service groups, Boy/Girl Scouts, etc.
   b) Presenting programs at coin clubs or coin shows.
   c) Writing articles for local, regional, or national numismatic publications.
   d) Serving in leadership positions for local clubs, or volunteering to help insure a successful coin club or coin show.
4) Agreeing to submit an article to FUN Topics upon return from the Annual ANA Summer Seminar on the subject matter of your class.
5) This award must be used the year it is awarded.

General Guidelines:

Submit a short Essay (less than 500 words) on what you have done for numismatics since becoming involved in the hobby. Tell us your area of interest and how the ANA Summer Seminar would help in pursuing your goals. Please give examples of how you plan to share your experiences with fellow hobby enthusiasts after attending the seminar. **The deadline for your application must be postmarked by October 1, 2015** and mailed to: FUN, Donna Moon, Secretary,PO Box 780401, Orlando, FL 32878-0401.

BEST-OF-SHOW

The Best-of-Show Exhibit winner will be presented a scholarship, sponsered by Heritage Auctions, to the ANA Summer Seminar at the Annual Florida United Numismatist coin convention every year. The following requirements will apply.

2014 Winner - Charmy Harker

1. Only one scholarship will be given each year for the Best-of-Show winner.
2. Your subject matter may not win the scholarship in consecutive years. In case the same exhibit would get another Best-of-Show within a consecutive year, no scholarship would be given out that year.
3. If you win the scholarship, you would be required to be an ANA member before the scholarship is awarded.
4. You are required to write an article for FUNTopics.
5. FUN will pay for coach airfare, tuition, and a room in the dorm and food in the campus cafeteria. If anyone wants to stay and eat elsewhere, they will be given a $ amount equal to the "Campus rates."
6. The award must be used the year it is awarded.
7. Any deviation from the above must be approved by the FUN Board of Directors.

FLORIDA UNITED NUMISMATISTS
ORLANDO, FLORIDA – JANUARY 8-11, 2015

(Application Postmark Deadline: December 1, 2014)

EXHIBIT APPLICATION

Exhibitor Name:_____FUN #_____
Address_____City_____State/Zip_____
Email_____Phone_____
Emergency Contact: Name_____City_____State/Zip_____

EXHIBIT CLASSIFICATIONS

_____U.S. Coins
_____Paper Money
_____Foreign Coins
_____Errors (All numismatic errors)
_____Medals, Orders, Decorations, Tokens
_____Miscellaneous
_____Junior YN(9-16) _____Senior YN(17-21)
_____Clubs (Any material relating to exhibiting club)
Competitive_____ Non-Competitive_____

Previous exhibit awards at FUN conventions_____
My intended convention address, if known_____
_____

Exhibit Title_____
Exhibit description: A brief note describing the theme/numismatic purpose of your exhibit. Use back of application if needed.
_____
_____

Number of Cases Needed #_____; or I shall provide #_____ cases of my own.

Release From Liability

I have read the "Rules for Exhibitors" and agree to abide by them. I guarantee all of the numismatic material in my exhibit is my own property. I hereby release Florida United Numismatists and its directors, members, agents, and servants in their official and personal capacities from any liability for loss, damage or destruction of my exhibited materials. The foregoing release shall not limit the liability of any individual who may be personally guilty of theft, willful damage or destruction of my numismatic material.

Signature_____**Date**_____

Parent's Signature if under 18_____**Date**_____
Photocopies or email are acceptable. All applications will be confirmed by the Exhibit Chairman. Please keep a copy of your appication for your files and send the original to:

Robert "Bob" Russell
PO Box 941616
Maitland, FL
32794-1616

Phone: 407-721-1351
Email: carousel@cfl.rr.com

I have removed my exhibit and have received any/all awards/medals awarded to me.

SIGNATURE_____**DATE**_____

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FUN APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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Associate Member	**$ 5.00**
(Immediate family member at the same address as a FUN regular or life member)	
Junior Member (under 22)	**$ 5.00**
Life Member	**$300.00**

NAME:_____

ADDRESS:_____

CITY:_____ **STATE/ZIP:**_____

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT:_____

SIGNATURE OF SPONSOR:_____

PHONE NUMBER:_____

Date of Birth (Juniors)_____

Associate member to: _____

Mail to: F.U.N. - Cindy Wibker
P O Box 471147
Lake Monroe, FL 32747-1147
Or for more information
call 407-321-8747

U.S.A. & Life members will receive a free subscription to **FUN-TOPICS** the official publication of the Florida United Numismatists,Inc.

Orange County Convention Center
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January 8-11, 2015

60th Annual FUN Show

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reservations@funshowhotels.com

More info:
WWW.FUNTOPICS.COM

Future Shows:

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January 5-8, 2017	Ft. Lauerdale, Fl.
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